Tick paralysis

Caused by a neurotoxin secreted by Dermacentor variabilis (American dog), Dermacentor andersoni (Rocky Mt. wood), Ixodes scapularis (deer/blacklegged), and Amblyomma americanum (lone star ticks).

Symptoms begin 2-6 days after attachment and primarily involve a paralysis that begins in the feet and spreads upward. May be fatal if respiratory muscles involved.

Paralysis resolves when tick is completely removed, usually within 24 hours of removal.