

Lyme disease is caused by a spiral-shaped bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Bb), or by newly discovered *Borrelia mayonii*.\* It is usually transmitted by the bite of an infected tick—*Ixodes scapularis* in the East, *Ixodes pacificus* in the West. The longer a tick is attached, the greater risk of disease transmission.

Improper removal increases risk of infection. \*Unknown effect on animals. GO TO [www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org](http://www.LymeDiseaseAssociation.org)

**Dogs, cats, horses and cows can contract Lyme & other tick-borne diseases & can be tested & treated.**

- Dogs act as sentinels for Lyme disease.
- The disease is often recognized in dogs before recognized in humans.
- Dogs are 50% more likely to get Lyme disease than people.
- **Lyme disease symptoms in dogs: lameness, fever, lethargy, swollen joints, enlarged lymph nodes & loss of appetite.**
- Ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, & Rocky Mountain spotted fever, also tick-borne diseases, are on the rise in dogs in the USA. Lone star, brown, American dog, & deer/blacklegged ticks can cause canine diseases.
- Dogs tend to roll in leaves & run unchecked into tick habitats.
- Children and their dogs & cats often play together; increasing the exposure of children to ticks.
- Dogs can bring ticks into homes thus into close proximity to people.
- In the laboratory, scientists have shown that cats can get Lyme, too. They seem to get Lyme less frequently.
- **Lyme disease symptoms in cats: lameness (may shift leg to leg), stiffness, pain, fever, decreased appetite & lethargy.**



Three potentially deadly TBD in cats include *Mycoplasma haemofelis*, aka, Haemobartonellosis; feline cytauxzoonosis; and tularemia. Babesiosis, anaplasmosis & ehrlichiosis can also occur.

- Talk to your veterinarian about protecting your animals from tick-borne diseases. There are pills, sprays, collars, products for neck area, dog vests with permethrin.
- **Warning: cats get poisoned from permethrin!** From CDC: *Cats are extremely sensitive to a variety of chemicals. Do not apply any insect acaricides or repellents to your cats without first consulting your veterinarian!*
- More than one tick-borne infection may be transmitted from the same tick bite.
- Protecting your pet helps to reduce tick exposure of your human family, too!
- Perform a daily “Tick Check” on all pets as well as family members. Ticks may hide anywhere on your pet, especially in folds, under a collar, in ears, and between paws.
- Use veterinarian recommended prevention products.
- Remove ticks from pets with the same care as used for humans. Never put any substance on an embedded tick. Learn how to correctly remove a tick at the Lyme Disease Association web site.

*This material is presented to provide practical & useful information on the subject matter covered. It is being presented with the understanding that LDA is not engaged in rendering medical or other professional services. If medical or other expert assistance is required, the services of a licensed physician or veterinarian should be sought. If you chose to use preventive products on yourself or your pets, carefully read and follow your medical professional and manufactures' suggestions. © Lyme Disease Association, Inc. 2003. Revised: 2014. 2017. Do not alter this material.*

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