

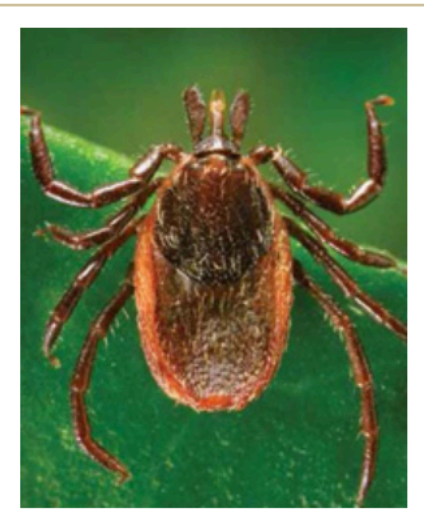
Headline News

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Board of Supervisors Recognizes May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has adopted a resolution recognizing May 2018 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in an effort to raise awareness about the disease and steps people can take to prevent it.

The resolution approved Tuesday cites Lyme disease as the most commonly reported disease caused by ticks in the United States, accounting for 223 probable or confirmed cases in Loudoun County in 2017. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) estimates that the total number of people diagnosed with Lyme disease in the United States is roughly 10 times higher than the yearly reported number of cases and that many more cases may go undiagnosed each year.



Lyme disease is caused by bacteria from ticks infected with an organism named *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It was first identified in the 1970s in Lyme, Connecticut. The organism is maintained in wild rodents, deer, other mammals and certain ticks, most commonly the black-legged (deer) tick, which is pictured at right. It is transferred to people by the bite of an infected tick.

“The Lyme Disease Commission takes seriously our role in educating citizens about Lyme disease,” said Dr. Samuel Shor, Chair of the Loudoun County Lyme Disease Commission. “By promoting activities such as public service announcements, circulating informational materials and coordinating public forums, it is our goal to mitigate the impact that this condition is having in our county.”

More information about Lyme disease in Loudoun County, including tips on how to prevent the spread of the disease, is available online at www.loudoun.gov/lyme.

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