

To Our Valued Clients and Patients:

“Ticks are second only to mosquitoes in the number of diseases they transmit, which is why it is so critical to prevent ticks from attaching to and feeding on pets and people in the first place. Adult ticks can survive even in less than ideal environmental conditions. This is why it is so important to use year round parasite protection.” (*DVM360.com toolkit March 2014)

Over the last few years, ticks have increased in population and they carry harmful bacteria that can cause Lyme disease. Contracting this disease is not only an issue for animals but humans as well. Fortunately there are ways to help reduce the risk of your pet contracting these bacterial infections.

- The first thing we recommend to do is to have your pet on a flea/tick product. Some of these medications have repelling properties to help discourage ticks from feeding. Even with medication ticks can still attach, especially in high tick concentration areas. Still our main goal is for the medication to kill the tick before it can transmit any harmful bacteria.
- Having your pet on a preventive also helps reduce live ticks being brought into your household that may decide to feed on your family.
- It is very important to know that dogs and cats will not have the distinctive sign of a “bull’s eye” on their skin. So it is very important to check over your pet’s body as well as your own after every exposure or walk.

We can help remove attached ticks and recommend when to have your pet tested as well as when we need to vaccinate against Lyme disease. We will perform a blood test here in the office which checks for Lyme disease, and two other tick borne diseases as well as heartworm (SNAP 4DX). If your pet is negative for Lyme we will vaccinate today and booster the vaccine again in 3-4 weeks. This vaccine is boosted every year. Taking these measures gives your pet the best protection that is out there today. It will reduce the risk significantly.

Important tips to know and understand for your safety:

1. Call your Primary Care Doctor ASAP, if any ticks are found on you or your family members. Make sure they are knowledgeable in Lyme Disease; if they are not familiar ask whom they recommend or Google Lyme Doctors in Buffalo NY. It has a long list of options for Doctors that are qualified in this area.
2. Ask the Doctor if blood work should be drawn for panels to check for tick borne diseases.
3. Watch for Flu like symptoms or a bull’s eye rash, only 75% of people get any symptoms or have the classic “bulls eye” sign show up on their own skin.
4. If gone untreated Lyme disease can become very crippling. It is nearly impossible to feel a tick bite, and that makes it difficult to pin point when a feeding may have taken place therefore prevention is really key in protecting your whole family.

