

# Tick Species in Kentucky

## Blacklegged or Deer Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

Transmits: Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, tick paralysis, and Powassan disease.

The greatest risk of being bitten exists in the spring, summer, and fall. However, adults may be out searching for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing. Stages most likely to bite humans are nymphs and adult females.



## Lone Star Tick (*Amblyoma americanum*)

Transmits: Human ehrlichiosis, tularemia, tick paralysis, a form of spotted fever (rickettsiosis), red meat allergy, and STARI

A very aggressive tick that bites humans. The adult female is distinguished by a white dot or "lone star" on her back. Lone star tick saliva can be irritating; redness and discomfort at a bite site does not necessarily indicate an infection. The nymph and adult females most frequently bite humans and transmit disease.



## American Dog or Wood Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

Transmits: Tularemia, tick paralysis, and a form of spotted fever (rickettsiosis).

The highest risk of being bitten occurs during spring and summer. Adult females are most likely to bite humans.



## Gulf Coast Tick (*Amblyoma maculatum*)

Transmits: A form of spotted fever (rickettsiosis), tick paralysis, and American canine hepatozoonosis

Larvae and nymphs feed on birds and small rodents, while adult ticks feed on deer and other wildlife. Adult ticks have been associated with transmission of disease to humans.



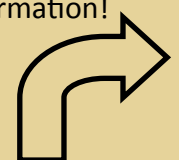
## Brown Dog Tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)

Transmits: A form of spotted fever (rickettsiosis) and dog ehrlichiosis

Dogs are the primary host for the brown dog tick in each of its life stages, but the tick may also bite humans or other mammals.



Flip over for more information!



# Tick Avoidance

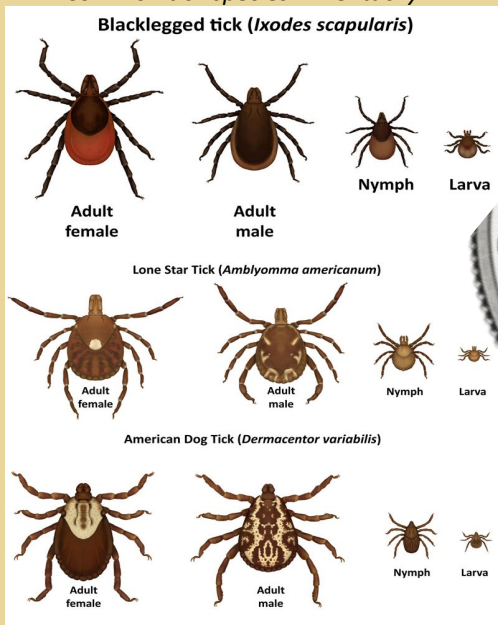
## Humans

- ◆ Treat your outdoor clothes with an EPA approved insect and tick repellent (i.e. permethrin, DEET)
- ◆ Shower immediately after being afield
- ◆ Conduct a full body check for ticks
- ◆ Tumble dry unwashed field clothes on high for 10 minutes
- ◆ Wash clothes in hot water

## Dogs

- ◆ Veterinary prescribed tick preventative
- ◆ Collars
- ◆ Vaccinations (Lyme disease)

### Common tick species in Kentucky



# Tick Removal

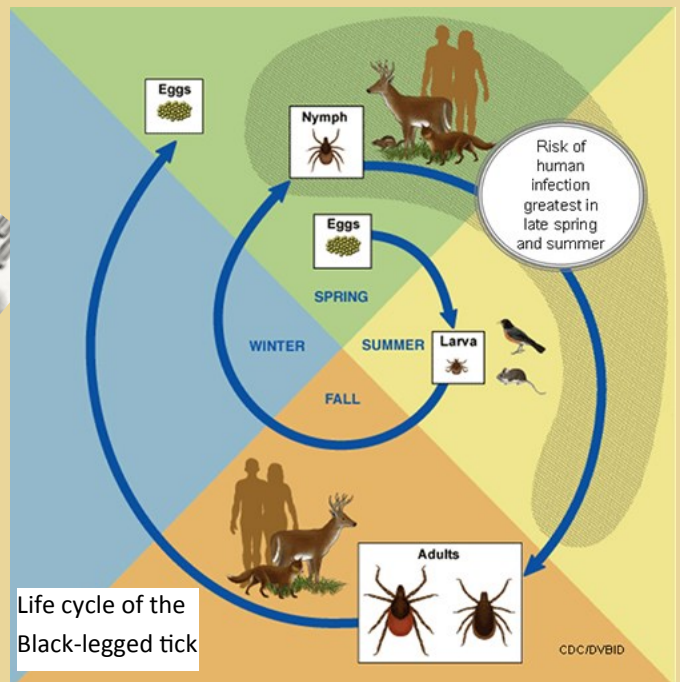
Early detection and removal of ticks drastically reduces your risk and your dog's risk of tick borne illnesses

In most cases, you have at least 24 hours to remove a feeding tick before it transmits infection

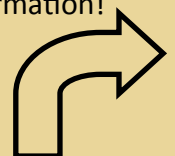
Remember to check these areas on your dog: between toes, under collar, around groin area, under the tail and front legs, and finally in and around the ears.

## Resources for more information

- ◆ [CDC website](#)
- ◆ [Entomology at UK](#)
- ◆ [EPA approved repellent](#)
- ◆ [Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)



Flip over for more information!



\*Information and images in this document were derived from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>