

## Ticks classification and details

### Classification

Scientific classification		Common/Scientific names:
Kingdom:	Animalia	Groundhog tick: <i>Ixodes cookei</i> (Packard)
Phylum:	Arthropoda	American dog tick: (Deer tick) <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> (Say)
Class:	Arachnida	Winter tick: <i>Dermacentor albipictus</i> (Packard)
Subclass:	Acari	Brown dog tick: <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> (Latreille)
Superorder:	Parasitiformes	Rabbit tick: <i>Haemaphysalis leporispalustris</i> (Packard)
Order:	Ixodida	
Superfamily:	Ixodoidea	

### Families

- Ixodidae – hard ticks
- Argasidae – soft ticks
  
- Nuttalliellidae

### Diversity

18 genera, c. 900 species



### General biology

Ticks are erroneously considered as insects, but they are not. Insects have a three-segmented body, two antennae and six legs whilst ticks have two-segmented body, with no antennae & 8 legs. Important family of ticks is called the Ixodidae. Both males and females have hard plate covering their backs. The posterior section of the female's back is expanded during feeding. Ticks are considered obligate parasites, meaning they must obtain a blood meal from a host to reproduce and live. Female adults are 6 mm long. After feeding they are about 13 mm long when enlarged with blood. Males and females need blood. The females use blood for egg production.

### Health effects of bite.

Tick bites normally result in skin swelling and irritation. The mouth parts of ticks must not be allowed to remain in the skin as these could lead to localized infection. Sometimes infection may result in blood poisoning. Many tick bites can lead to anemia, emaciation. Sometimes animals die from many bites.

### Tick diseases transmitted to humans

The tick diseases are transferred from one host to another during blood-feeding. The common tick diseases are Rocky Mountain spotted fever. American dog tick can pass on

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, rickettsial disease known as (*Rickettsia rickettsii*) to humans. Symptoms occur from 2-14 days after the bite.

### **Tick diseases transmitted to dogs**

The Tick paralysis is a disease which can be passed on by the American dog tick and some *Ixodes* species. Lyme disease is caused by a twisted bacterium called a spirochaete. The spirochaete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is found in mice. Ticks transmit diseases to other animals including humans. Symptoms include skin rashes, arthritis, neurological disorders and cardiac disease.

### **Control and management**

- Control is very difficult due to their enormous reproduction, seek professional help!
- Avoid tick infested areas if possible.
- Put on protective clothing.
- Examine your body very well for ticks. Check your pets as well
- Embedded ticks should be removed from skin using small tweezers.
- Use tweezers to remove ticks
- Do not kill the tick before it has been removed.
- Treat the bite from ticks with antiseptic (DEET) to avoid infection.

Please call SPC professional exterminators for control, we will be happy to help you!



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