

DARE TO PROTECT: Pet & Yard


Protecting Your Pets
from Diseases Ticks Carry



Protecting Your Yard



Dare
2B TICK
Aware[™]



A PA Lyme Prevention Program

PETS that go outside can increase the risk of tick bites – for your pet and your family. Ticks can attach to dogs and cats and then come into your home. Ticks that aren't attached can drop off and then latch onto you or another family member. Make pet protection a priority with the prevention tips found in this brochure!

Make your **YARD** less inviting to ticks and wildlife! Ticks are found in many settings – from forests to urban parks and even desert areas in the west. They are very common in backyards in the eastern U.S. See tips for your yard tick management plan!



DID YOU KNOW: The majority of people diagnosed with Lyme, or another disease carried by ticks, get bitten by a tick in their very own yard!



STEP 1: CREATE TICK-SAFE ZONES IN YOUR YARD

Ticks need moisture and small animals for a blood meal to survive. Creating a drier yard with less wildlife will help reduce the risk of ticks in your yard.

For your pets:

- **Solid fences** help keep wildlife out and your pets in. Keep the fence bottom clear of debris and leaves where ticks like to gather.
- **Invisible fences** can be used in areas that have lower risks for ticks, like tick-safe zones.
- **Use dry wood chips** as bedding in areas where your pet likes to lay down.



TIP ON TICK-SAFE ZONES: Ticks do not easily survive in the sunny, middle part of your yard. They are usually found on the edges and in the woods. They move toward plants or grass or damp areas of your yard to look for a meal.

For your family:

- **Replace grassy areas** with flagstone patios, brick or gravel walkways, or wooden decks.
- **Move swing sets away** from the edge of woods. Place them in sunny spots on a wood chip foundation.
- **Use wood chips** to create a 3-foot border on the edge of your property, especially where lawn and woods meet, to reduce the number of ticks that cross into your yard.
- **Use plants** that require less water to reduce damp or wet spaces.



WOOD CHIP TIP: Ticks do not like dry wood chips. Alaskan Yellow Cedar chips are best; the wood oil repels ticks.

PROTECTING PETS FROM DISEASES TICKS CARRY

STEP 2: CONSIDER REPELLENTS & VACCINES

- **Tick Prevention:** When applied correctly and on time, these products can greatly control tick infestations. Tick preventatives include oral medications, topical applications, and tick repellent collars. For dogs, a few brands include NexGard™, Simparica Trio®, Credelio®, Bravecto®, and Seresto®. For cats, suitable products include Credelio®, Revolution®, and Seresto®. Make sure you use the adequate product for the correct species. Some people and animals may be sensitive to the chemicals in these products.
- **Bathing:** If you find several ticks on your dog, bathe the pet so that ticks are easier to visualize and remove.
- **Vaccines:** A Lyme disease vaccine is available for dogs. The vaccine can provide antibodies against the bacteria that causes Lyme disease and can be helpful at protecting your dog if bit by an infected tick. It is highly recommended for high endemic areas. There are varying opinions on the effectiveness of the vaccine.
- **Pretreated pet bedding:** Some permethrin pretreated pet bedding may help kill ticks that your dog brings inside, but can be very toxic to cats or other animals. Consult with your veterinarian prior to using permethrin as it could cause respiratory or toxic issues in pets. (CAUTION: if you have cats, we do not encourage do-it-yourself spraying for pet bedding. Permethrin is toxic to cats; carefully read all manufacturer directions for products you use around pets.)



SHOULD I VACCINATE MY CAT?

There is no scientific evidence to suggest that cats get Lyme disease. However, ticks can be carried inside by your cat and pose great risk to you and your family. Make sure you protect your cat with products that are safe for cats and kill the ticks that may come home on them.

Always consult your veterinarian before using any kind of product or vaccine on your pet.



STEP 3: TAKE TICK-SAFE WALKS

- Select and apply your desired tick preventative for your dog before hitting the trail.
- Don't forget to pre-spray your shoes and/or clothing with permethrin and yourself with tick repellent made for skin. Learn more about personal prevention in our Dare to Prevent brochure.
- Stay in safe zones. Keep your pet on its leash and out of areas where ticks live:
 - Walking zones: Choose wide paths where pets can't easily brush up against grassy areas at the edge of trails.
 - Sniffing zones: Keep pets out of areas with tall or dense grass or plants. Let them sniff short grass that is in full sun.

STEP 4: TICK CHECKS

- Check your pet regularly for ticks especially after every outdoor walk. Carefully comb through pet's hair. Check ears, neck, around eyes, under tail and belly, inside mouth, and under collar.
- BE ALERT for pet scratching or chewing on their feet or legs. Since pets have thick fur, ticks may take some time before attaching to them. If your dog or cat brings in ticks, the ticks may drop off and latch onto you or a family member inside your home.



Sleeping with outdoor pets or allowing them to go on your furniture increases the risk of their transferring a tick to you.

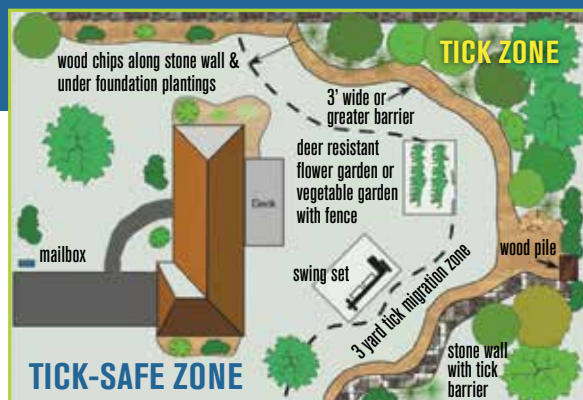
PROTECTING YOUR YARD

STEP 2: DISRUPT WILDLIFE HABITAT IN YOUR YARD

- Cut grass short, trim edges around fences, buildings, sidewalks.
- Control weeds.
- Remove pools of standing water.
- Remove brush and leaves around wood piles and stone walls.
- Move wood piles away from house, stack neatly, and raise off the ground.
- Seal openings around house and stone walls (mice/chipmunks live in them).
- Treat plants with animal repellent or use plants that do not attract deer.
- Move bird feeders away from house or remove from yard, as seeds attract small animals.
- Use plants less likely to hold moisture.
- Use plants less likely to attract wildlife nests.

STEP 3: DISRUPT TICK HABITAT IN YOUR YARD

- **Rake up leaf litter**, restrict the use of ground cover (like pachysandra and ivy) which harbor rodents, cut back tree branches and shrubs to let in more sunlight.
 - **Plant fragrant anti-tick plants:** garlic, mint, rosemary, rue, wormwood, fleabane daisy, chrysanthemums, pennyroyal and Mexican marigold.
 - **Remove Japanese barberry plants:** they are deer resistant, but create a humid environment for ticks and mice, a major carrier of Lyme disease.
- **Reduce mice populations:** keep mice populations down and out of the house where they can bring ticks in.
 - **Use Damminix® tick tubes:** Biodegradable, cardboard tubes filled with environmentally friendly permethrin-treated cotton balls. EPA approved (ticktubes.com), and reduce tick exposure risk 10-fold.
 - **Kill ticks with Fipronil mouse bait boxes.** Baited boxes attract mice. Inside, an overhanging wick applies fipronil, an EPA-registered pesticide, to the mouse's back. Keep away from pets or other animals as it may cause harm.



STEP 4: TREAT YOUR LAWN

CONSIDER TREATING YOUR LAWN THREE (3x) per year mid-MAY, mid-JUNE and mid-OCTOBER.

- Chemical tick-control agents include: Permethrin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin. Spray barriers at edge of property and any areas where plants are thick. Synthetic chemicals have a higher tick-kill rate versus natural organic sprays.
- Natural yard spray options range from cedar oil to other oils like Nootkatone, garlic and more. Effectiveness-testing is not common with most natural products as they don't require EPA studies or approval. Contact the manufacturer and learn how they tested their stated effectiveness.

TIP: Many lawn services now offer tick management programs. If you use them, evaluate the products being used to ensure effectiveness.

**CAUTION: Pyrethroids can be toxic to fish and permethrin, when wet, can be toxic to cats. Keep all pets indoors after product is sprayed on lawn until it completely dries. Do not use pesticides near any body of water, they may kill aquatic life or pollute the water itself. Avoid spraying flowers, herbs, vegetables, fruit trees or butterfly gardens. Always read and follow label directions and precautions.*





To learn more about prevention measures,
visit our website or social media pages.

www.palyme.org

 PA Lyme Resource Network

 @PALyme1

PA Lyme Resource Network (www.palyme.org) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides awareness, education, support, advocacy and resources to navigate Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases in the state of Pennsylvania.

For references on statistics cited in this brochure visit Dare2BTick Aware at palyme.org.

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