

My pet got bit by a tick!!!

NOW WHAT???



Here's what you can do if you find an embedded tick on your pet...

1. Remove the tick. With gloved hands, use a tick puller or tweezers to remove the tick as close to the pet's body as possible (without pinching him or her!). Pay careful attention to pulling it straight out, without twisting, or breaking the tick. Many people worry about 'leaving the head in'. If pulled straight out from the base, where contact is, the entire tick should come out. If you see something remaining in the site, it is typically not cause for concern, and the pet's body will take care of it on its own during the healing process. Avoid smothering the area with anything, as this can sometimes cause the tick to regurgitate saliva into the contact site. Also avoid coming in contact directly with the tick or any excretions from the tick. ** NOTE: When the tick is out, you can submerge it in isopropyl alcohol and note the date it was found and removed. **
2. Disinfect the bite site. With an over the counter disinfectant for wounds, or hydrogen peroxide, apply a small amount to a cotton ball, and wipe the area. Please note that you may see some hair loss and a small wound or scab in this area. However, pets do not get erythema mirgans (the "bullseye") like people do from a tick bite.
3. Over the coming days to weeks, monitor your pet for fever, joint swellings, lethargy, or any other unusual behavior. Contact the office at **860-645-1700** if you notice any of those characteristics.
4. You can elect to test the tick directly at UCONN. The testing can range from \$100-\$120 per tick. The website is <http://cvmdl.uconn.edu/resources/feeschedule.php>