

Tick Talk



QUICK TICK FACTS

- Ticks are found throughout Carlisle, in all of New England, most of the Mid-Atlantic, and increasingly in the Midwest and West Coast.
- Deer ticks tend to concentrate in moist, shady, leaf-littered areas, often at the perimeter of landscaped yards.
- Most tick infections occur in the spring through early summer, but can occur at any time of year, and are attributed to bites from the deer ticks in their small, nymph stage. Because of the nymph's small size many people who develop a tick-borne illness are unaware of ever having been bitten, so in addition to inspecting one's body for ticks, one must also be particularly vigilant for symptoms.
- Deer ticks are responsible for Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis/erlichiosis. The American Dog Tick, a different species, is responsible for most cases of the rarer Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Tularemia.
- Typically, a tick must bite and remain attached for 48 to 72 hours for disease transmission to occur. Infection, often with the smaller nymphs, may occur without one's knowledge, so one should be watchful for symptoms even in the absence of a known tick bite.

Web links to additional sources

Tick Encounter: <http://www.tickencounter.org/>

Massachusetts Health and Human Services:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/wellness/disease-prevention/communicable-diseases/ticks/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/>

Lyme Disease in MA: A Public Health Crisis:

<http://www.malegislature.gov/committees/187/document/house/h46/lymediseasereport>

Companion Animal Parasite Council: <http://www.capcvet.org/>

Lyme Disease Association: <http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org/>