



Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friends. That's Franklin Farm.

Protecting Your Furry Friends From Ticks!

Written by: Charlotte Peterkin

Tis the season for ticks. Ticks are parasites that attach onto and feed off of the blood of animals. They carry diseases that can be potentially detrimental to your pet's health. The most common ticks in the Northern Virginia area are deer ticks (otherwise known as black-legged ticks), American dog ticks, brown dog ticks, and lone star ticks. Infected ticks transmit their diseases through biting their host. The most common diseases transmitted by these ticks are Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Lyme disease:

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria carried by deer ticks. Ticks typically have to be attached to their host for 36-48 hours to transmit the bacteria. Some signs of Lyme disease may include fever, joint pain, limping, and lethargy. Signs can show 2-5 months after exposure. Dogs can be vaccinated against Lyme disease using a yearly booster shot. If you have any questions about this vaccine or would like to schedule your pet to receive one, please contact our veterinary team.

Ehrlichiosis:

Ehrlichiosis is caused by the brown dog tick, lone star tick, and the American dog tick. Some common signs include fever, suppressed appetite, and an increase in bruising due to lowered blood clotting factors. These signs can start to show anywhere between 1-3 weeks after exposure.

Anaplasmosis:

Anaplasmosis is also caused by bacteria carried by deer ticks. The signs for this disease can be similar to Lyme disease but includes symptoms related to lowered blood clotting factors.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever:









Rocky Mountain spotted fever is carried by the American dog tick. Some potential signs for this disease are fever, lowered appetite, swollen lymph nodes, and joint pain. Animals can also show signs of being less stable or wobbly on occasion.

Dogs can be tested for Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis through a small blood collection at our clinic. This test also screens for heartworm, a parasite carried by infected mosquitos. If you have any questions about this test or would like to schedule your pet to receive one, please contact our team.

In order to protect your furry friend(s) from these diseases, preventatives are key. For dogs, we recommend the product NexGard®. NexGard® is a beef-flavored chewable tablet that is given to your pet once a month. NexGard® will protect your pet from both fleas and ticks if administered monthly. Some other products include topical Frontline® and Seresto® medicated collars, just to name a few. For cats, there are products such as Frontline®, Seresto® collars, Revolution®, and many more. If you have any questions about preventatives and which kind will work best for your pet, please contact us.

It is important to check your pets for ticks regularly from nose to tail, as the sooner you remove a tick the less likely a disease will be transmitted. If you do find an embedded tick, it is important to get it removed as quickly and safely as possible. To remove ticks at home, the best option is to use a tool specifically made to remove ticks. If you do not have one of these, you can use fine-point tweezers. You should get as close to the skin as possible when removing a tick and pull with a slow, steady force. If removed incorrectly, the tick's mouth can remain in the skin. Do not remove a tick with your bare hands, it is not as effective and can increase the risk of being infected with a disease yourself. Also, make sure to wear gloves during removal to further prevent infection. Once the tick is removed, make sure you wash your hands, clean the bite area thoroughly with rubbing alcohol, and rinse the tool with a disinfectant. If you are weary of removing a tick at home, please call our clinic and we will gladly remove it for you.

Ticks can be a scary sight for pet owners, but knowing how to protect your furry friends is the first step in battling them. Here at Franklin Farm Veterinary Clinic, we are committed to helping provide the best care possible for your pets and will help you every step of the way.

Deer (black-legged) tick	American Dog Tick
 <p data-bbox="207 516 370 548">Adult Male</p>	 <p data-bbox="492 506 649 537">Adult Male</p>
 <p data-bbox="191 695 386 726">Adult Female</p>	 <p data-bbox="475 684 665 716">Adult Female</p>
<p data-bbox="191 737 362 768">Disease Transmission: Lyme Disease Anaplasmosis</p>	<p data-bbox="459 737 678 768">Disease Transmission: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever</p>
Lone star tick	Brown Dog Tick
 <p data-bbox="207 1066 370 1098">Adult Male</p>	 <p data-bbox="492 1066 649 1098">Adult Male</p>
 <p data-bbox="191 1255 386 1287">Adult Female</p>	 <p data-bbox="475 1262 665 1293">Adult Female</p>
<p data-bbox="191 1304 362 1335">Disease Transmission: Ehrlichiosis Rocky Mountain spotted fever</p>	<p data-bbox="459 1304 678 1335">Disease Transmission: Ehrlichiosis Rocky Mountain spotted fever</p>

Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: The Australian Cattle Dog, a medium-sized, short-coated dog, tolerates heat very well. This breed is related to the dingo, a wild dog that lives in the Australian outback. They are highly intelligent, very active and natural herders. Be certain to socialize these pups as they do not easily warm up to new people.

Cats Corner



Cat Fact: The Savannah cat is said to be dog like in its personality. They love playing in the water, playing fetch and enjoy walks. They enjoy outside activities and being in the sun. The Savannah has long legs, massive ears and beautiful spots and have an exotic appearance. While they love to snuggle, they have a strong prey drive. They are very intelligent, have a lot of energy, even into their older years, and love swimming and any water activity.

Pet of the Month:

Written by Caroline Webster

Abby is a 2-year-old Shepard-mix who makes everyone smile wherever she goes. Her bubbly personality is so welcoming. She is a ray of sunshine every time she comes in for a visit.

Her favorite toys are her ball and sticks. Abby enjoys teasing her mom by grabbing the ball and playing keep away with her mom. Her favorite snacks are milk bones 😊

It is always a pleasure spending time with Abby!



Pet Desk is Here!

We have a new interactive communication tool for your pet's health called PetDesk. It is a mobile app where you will receive reminders for your pet's health care, access your pet's vaccine information and appointment history, access to refill history and has informative pet related articles. You can utilize the app for 24/7 online booking, request prescription refills, receive lab work results and you can receive text updates from our hospital staff.

Download the app now!



PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

We have had a large response to National Pet Dental Health awareness. Book your pet's dental cleaning and oral health exam during September and October and you will receive \$100.00 off the cost of those services.



RUFFerral Program:

At Franklin Farm we believe "RUFFerrals" are the greatest form of flattery. Refer a friend and your pet will receive a \$25.00 credit at your next appointment. Your referral's pet will receive a FREE bag of treats at their first appointment.

Celebrations in September:

September brings awareness to pet insurance as a way to make certain that you, as a pet parent, have all the knowledge you need to keep your pet safe and healthy during times of wellness and emergencies.

<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/l/best-pet-insurance-2024-ba>

<https://www.pawlicywizard.com/pet-insurance>

Cancellation Policy:

Hello Everyone: We need your help! If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please call to reschedule or cancel the appointment more than 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

This allows ample time for other clients to call and get their fur babies seen.

We understand that you all have a lot going on in your lives and unexpected things pop up, so please remember to contact us **more than 24 hours** in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

We have implemented a Cancellation Policy, as follows:

If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please do so **more than 24 hours** in advance of your appointment time. If you reschedule/cancel less than 24 hours leading up to your appointment, or no show, you will be charged for the office visit fee correlating to your appointment.

When you reschedule or cancel **more than 24 hours** in advance, it allows other patients to be seen in your rescheduled/canceled spot. This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance!

