

**How to Remove a Tick from a Dog:
Keeping Your "Pooch" Healthy, Clean and Tick Free**



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Introduction



Like us humans, dogs care about feeling good. Of course they won't be able to tell us by speaking, or else we might think that we're in a dream or something. What they feel will always reflect in their actions. It's very important for our furry canine friends to be kept clean, spotless, smelling good (most of the time), and most importantly, tick free. Being tick free can help our pet pooches to move around without any inconveniences, to enjoy playing with other dogs, and to do their duties.

Ticks are dogs' counterpart of our lice. Lice usually attack children's scalp. Both lice and ticks are parasites who feed on their host's blood. Lice and ticks look a lot differently from each other. Like people infested with lice, dogs that are tick-infested can feel very itchy and uncomfortable about it. That's one possible reason why some dogs get wounded by their own paws because they try to scratch out the itchy body part inhabited by ticks.

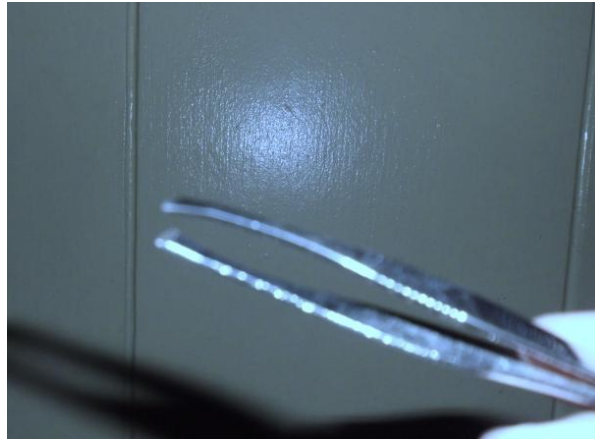
There are many formulations, cures, and treatments to eliminate lice. Eliminating ticks on hounds is a different procedure. That's what we're going to discuss in this mini book.

First, let's see the possible reasons why dogs get ticks on their bodies. Ticks get attracted to warmth and motion. These small arachnids climb to the ends of leaves or branches and attach to hosts, usually dogs that brush against them. Once a tick is able to cling to a host, it immediately attaches its mouth to the host's skin to start a blood meal. These insects don't detach its mouth from the skin until their digestive tract is full.

Ticks are usually found on a mutt's body parts where there are lesser hair and lots of blood supply - around and inside the ears, between paw spaces, on the pits of legs, and where there are skin folds. Ticks' lifespan can range from 3 months up to two years. Ticks can easily reproduce and multiply since female ticks can lay up to 3,000 eggs in one go. There are different kinds of ticks depending on location in the globe. There are deer ticks, brown dog ticks, lone star ticks, and American dog ticks. It doesn't really matter, the curing and treatment to eliminate them are all the same.

Not only ticks causes inconvenience to our pets, they can also be dangerous to people. There are what they call tick-borne diseases - babesiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, and Lyme disease to name a few. So, just in case you don't care about your dog getting irritated because of ticks, you may want to treat them to protect your own health and your family's.

Best Ways to Remove Ticks



Many people believe that putting a lit match near to a tick will make it come off by itself from the dog's skin. Truth is, this may just burn some of your pooch's fur and cause irritation to its skin. This may also make the tick produce more disease-causing saliva, which is bad for your pet. Trying to suffocate a tick by covering it with petroleum jelly won't work either.

While spraying alcohol on a tick could make it dizzy or weaken it. It still should still be followed by some careful pulling action.

So you notice that your dog keeps on scratching and scratching itself. You suspect it got ticks. First thing to do before going straight to remove the parasite is to check whether your pet really is tick-infested.

Run your hands over your mutt's body and feel if there's any bump or inconsistency on the smoothness. You can also use a tick comb to search for ticks. It's best to do this on a broad daylight or a room where there's sufficient lighting. While caressing your dog, pay attention to pits of ears, neck, legs, and other parts with lesser hair. If you can do this every day, do it. Ticks may appear small or as big as a raisin when full. Once you find one or more, proceed to the process of removal. By the way, to be protected from possible insect bites and disease-causing bacteria, you can wear a pair of latex gloves. There are different methods that you can use.

Pulling Out Ticks Manually

1. If you found a big, round tick, you can simply pull it out using your bare hands. It's always recommended though that you do the pulling with latex gloves on for ticks are dirty and full of disease-causing bacteria. Spray or apply alcohol to the tick, targeting its head to loosen its bite against the skin. Just make sure to get a good view of its head by pushing the surrounding furs aside. Blood-filled ticks are easier to be removed than the small ones.

2. If you're not comfortable using your hands or the tick is small, you have an option of using tweezers or a puller. A pointed type pair of tweezers is the best for small ticks. There's already a special tool in the market especially designed for tick removal as well.
3. Put just enough pressure while pulling. Just enough to grasp the body of the tick without squeezing it to avoid poisonous bacteria carried by blood from spilling out.
4. Once done, slight bleeding on your dog's skin may occur. It's normal. Just apply a little pressure on the affected area or better yet, apply alcohol or an anti-bacterial solution with cotton.
5. Sometimes, you'd find out that you were only able to remove the body. The head is still attached to the skin. In this case, you need to use tweezers or a puller again to carefully remove the head. This time, you would need more concentration.
6. Don't worry if you cannot remove tiny debris of the head, it will normally fall off sooner or later.
7. Wash your hands after.
8. If few days have passed already and the tick's head is still there, consult a vet.
9. Monitor that spot of your pet's skin in the next few days just to make sure there won't be any infection or irritation. If something looks bad, consult your local veterinarian.
10. Just a reminder, with this method, chances are, the infected area will be left with a scar.

Making the Tick Dizzy

With the first method, we found out that sometimes, when you use tweezers (or a puller) in removing a tick, the head is left attached to the skin. Here is another manual method where you need to use your hands to do the removal and there will be no pulling. With this, the whole body of the tick will be detached without any debris of its head left on the skin, because it will somehow willingly disengage its own head from biting. The limitation of this method is, you can only do this on ticks that are large enough. It's hard to do on small ticks. Again, you can perform this method using bare hands or hands with latex gloves on.

1. Rub the tick in a circular motion like you're trying to remove it carefully and you're not rushing. You should rub it either clockwise or counter-clockwise. This will give a dizziness effect to the tick. Make sure the body of the tick is moving around. This procedure should normally take around 1 minute.
2. Dispose the removed tick.
3. Wash your hands.

This procedure is hard to apply to newly attached ticks. In that case, you need to wait for 1 to 2 days to do this, when the tick is already comfortable in its place.

Tick Twister

This tool can be a great alternative to rubbing the tick in a circular motion method and using tweezers and pullers - this device works like the combination of both. It's a plastic material that looks like a hook. For more information about this or if you want to know how it looks like, you can visit this page <http://www.twist-it-out.com/>.

The advantages of using this little tool are: it's guaranteed for a lifetime use, it's easy to clean and disinfect, the design is simple, it's very easy to use, and it removes ticks whole.

One disadvantage is it may cause the tick produce bacteria-causing saliva because of the twisting.

Tick Freezer

This is a newly invented tool. It has two functions: the 'tickner' that freezes the tick by spurting the 'cold spray' onto the tick's body by pressing a button twice. After that, you can remove the tick using the built-in tick remover.

Tick Spoon

This tool works like the tick twister. It's a plastic spoon with notch at the end. It's used by sliding the notch under the tick and levering it off. This works best on body areas with less fur.

Other Tools which are Less Effective

Other tools, which are less effective, are the 'tick nipper' or 'tick pliers', and the 'tick slider'. The 'tick nipper' is a little plastic thing with curved jaws that fit under a tick. Its purpose is to grasp the tick's head and lift it off. The jaws are highly efficient but the handles are not well-designed, making the tool clumsy to use.

The tick slider is quite similar to the tick spoon. It looks like scissors with the handles. To use it, you slide it under the tick and lift it off. This device is actually more applicable to be used on human skin than on furry dog's skin.

What to do with the removed tick or ticks

1. First, wrap it with a tissue or cotton.
2. You can kill a removed tick by drowning it in a bottle with alcohol or wrapping it in a paper then burning it.
3. Some people get curious and want the tick/s to be identified so they put them in a clear jar or bottle , write date on it, then do some research or have it examined for

possible disease causing bacteria. You can do that, too. It's best to do it with a veterinarian.

Treatment Products

If you don't want manual tick removal methods, there are treatment products in the market that can help you do the task. One effective is Frontline. This product is for killing ticks and fleas, plus, protection for up to one month after application for ticks. This is the step-by-step procedure:

1. Unpack the 'applicator' using bare hands or scissors.
2. Snap the tip away to open.
3. Place the tip of the applicator directly to your pet's skin between the shoulder blades and squeeze out all the contents. The formula will automatically spread to your pet's skin all over the body.
4. It may take up to 24 hours before living ticks on your dog's body to die.

The Outcome of Removing Ticks

If you are able to remove all the ticks from your pet, you should notice that your pooch isn't a scratching savvy anymore. Follow up actions must include continuous observation on your dog's skin for any infection or irritation, a little more research on tick prevention and how ticks can also harm you and your family. We will talk about prevention methods on the next pages.

A pooch without the feeling of uneasiness because of tick or flea infection can be called a happy dog. That should be the primary reason why we, the masters of our pets, get rid of ticks from our canine buddies. The secondary reason being our own and family's protection from harmful diseases.

These are the signs of a happy and healthy pup.

1. Overall behavior. We can easily notice if a dog is happy. Unlike humans, dogs don't have the ability to hide feelings. So when a dog is happy, it will definitely show - it would wag its tail profusely.
2. Normal stool. Firm, small and less odorous.
3. Curiosity. Happy dogs are curious and always recognize the new things around. In fact, everything is new to a dog's eyes every new day.
4. Smile. Yes, dogs smile. Happy dogs smile all the time, especially when their master is around.
5. Playfulness. Dogs naturally love to play with their masters or with other mutts. Dogs need to use all the excess energy that they have and they do that through playing and running.
6. Appetite. Happy dogs have hearty appetites.

We can certainly enjoy the company of a happy dog than a dog that keeps on scratching, seems not willing to play, or lacks enthusiasm.

If your pooch is happy, most likely, its immune system is always at its best and he or she will have a longer life span.

How to Keep Your Dog Clean, Healthy and Tick-Free



Keeping your pet pup clean and tick free can be an issue especially if he or she is an ‘outdoor’ dog. Majority breeds of hounds prefer to stay outdoors most of the time. The reason being dogs just want to have fun and play. Because of that, they become prone to different parasites, usually ticks. Ticks are nuisance to our pets and surely can cause them inconvenience and worse, diseases.

How can we keep ticks away from our pet pooches? There are several effective traditional and new ways:

Traditional Methods

1. One good practice is avoiding walking our dogs in bushes or in any vegetation during tick season. To be sure about this, we need to keep bushes, grasses, and any form of vegetation in our yard trimmed.
2. Lodge tick-repelling plants on your yard. These are plants with strong odors – geraniums, lavender, pennyroyal, pyrethrum, sage, American beautyberry, eucalyptus, mint, citronella, and garlic to name a few.
3. Create a natural barrier on your yard. Gravel, mulch, cedar wood chips, and diatomaceous soil can keep ticks from crossing into your yard. Diatomaceous soil has finely ground silicate shells that have razor-sharp edges that can cut through outer layers of ticks.
4. Always check your dog for ticks whenever they come back from the outdoors. It's best to do this with a tick comb.
5. Dogs are trainable. You can train your dogs to avoid certain places like bushes, and thick vegetations.

6. Give your dog a bath regularly. This not only ensures that you pet is clean but also helps you detect deep-seated ticks. You can also use a little apple cider vinegar when rinsing the fur – ticks don't like the smell and taste of apple cider vinegar.
7. As alternative to preventive collars, you can also put a drop of rosemary or lemon oil on your dog's regular collar.
8. Geranium, lavender, and lemon grass repel ticks.
9. Stack firewood in a sunny, dry area. Ticks die easily in such conditions.
10. Lemons as repellent. You can cut six lemons in half, boil them, and then strain the solution into a spray bottle. You can spray the formula on your pet's fur from time to time. Avoid spraying on their eyes.

New or Modern Methods

1. There are certain medications we can provide our pets to ensure they won't attract ticks. It's best to consult a veterinarian in regards to this because there's a particular preventive medication that will suit a specific breed. Application method will also depend on the age of your pet. Also, formulas for cats are different from dogs'.
2. Treat your yard with a spray containing 'fenvalerate'. Fenvalerate is an insecticide available in the market. This is recommended especially on peak tick months. You may need to spray from seven to fourteen days every month.
3. Once a month topical treatment or what is advised by the veterinarian. One sample of a good brand is Frontline.
4. Regular application of powders that contain pyrethrin. Pyrethrin is a form of insecticide. This is not an advisable method if you have asthma as you may inhale the powder.
5. Dips and rinses. This is also an effective method, but you need to be extra careful in the application of this formula because it contains different chemicals. Avoid being applied on eyes and ears of your pet.
6. Flea and tick shampoo. If you're going to give your dog a bath, you can use this special shampoo then leave it on the body for around 10 minutes before rinsing. Again, this contains some chemicals (pyrethrin) so protect your pet's ears and eyes when applying solution.
7. Flea and tick collar. When putting the collar on your dog's neck, give enough allowance where you can put your two fingers between the neck and the collar. Cut off the excess portion to make sure your other pets, cats or dogs, won't have anything to chew on. Check the expiry date of effectiveness on the package. Most of tick collar brands losses effectiveness quickly when gets wet. These preventive collars are really effective when used properly.
8. For added protection, you can have your pets vaccinated with Lyme vaccine to avoid Lyme disease. This is mostly recommended if ticks are widespread in your area. You can consult a veterinarian to ask if this is necessary.

Dietary Supplements to Help Boost Immunity and to Repel Ticks

You may consider giving your pet pooch added dietary supplements when you see warning signs like low energy level, quick and up-and-down change in weight, dry skin and dull fur coat. A veterinarian should be able to give you a good advice about this issue to avoid allergies and malabsorptions.

1. Half teaspoon of brewer's yeast daily provides vitamin B complex to dogs.
2. Providing B complex vitamins. 50 mg a day for small dogs and 100 mg a day for bigger dogs.
3. Omega 3 and 6 fatty acid supplements
4. Adding one tablespoon of organic apple cider vinegar to dog's water drink.
5. Adding one teaspoon of safflower oil and powdered kelp or seaweed to your pet's meal.
6. Little amount of garlic on every dog meal can make your pet's blood taste bad to ticks. This shouldn't be done everyday though.

What to Consider When Choosing a Supplement

1. Safety. Ask the experts (vets) and your friends who have the same dog breed as yours about the product you're contemplating to purchase for your pet hound. Invest and research to make sure the supplement is totally safe for your dog.
2. Efficacy. Again, for this, you can ask the experts and some friends for advice.
3. Quality. Check the ingredients (nutrition facts).
4. Tolerance. Consult a veterinarian to check if the supplement you bought can cause allergies to your pooch.

More Dog Care Tips

Be sensitive to your dog's behavior. If your dog changes its behavior or appetite suddenly, there could be something wrong going on.

1. Medical condition. A sudden change of a dog's desirable behavior is normally linked to its medical condition. If this happens, it's best to consult a veterinarian right away to prevent any possible illness.
2. Smoke detectors. Do you have smoke detectors inside your home? The soft beep produced by a smoke detector when its battery is already running low can be hurtful to a mutt's sensitive ears.
3. Proper exercise. A dog's energy should have an outlet, so make sure they get enough activities every day like walking, playing, running, or swimming
4. Age. Like humans, dogs may change their behavior as they grow older.
5. Master's mood. If you're having a bad day, your pet dog may pick up the mood from you and make him or her nervous and worried.

6. New environment. Did you just move to another neighborhood? Dogs need time to get used to their new surroundings. Introducing them to neighbors and their pets can help them get by easily.
7. Routine change. Did your pet's meal time and walk time changed due to your job's shift change? Pooches needs time as well to adapt to these changes.
8. Household changes. Is there a new person in the house, a relative or a friend? Or maybe a new pet – a cat or a dog? Hounds are sensitive to changes and needs time to adapt.
9. Ticks cause discomfort to pooches. Check their body for any ticks that are bothering them.

If most of these on the list are occurring to your pet pooch and your vet determined that CCD is positive, a treatment may be recommended. This could be daily treatment for the rest of your pet's life. A good veterinarian should be able to advise you proper treatment.

Some Tips on Keeping Dogs Overall Healthy

Responsibilities in keeping our pet pup healthy ranges from allowing them to play and providing balanced diet to proper grooming and cleaning (bathing). These are the specifics:

1. Let them have plenty of exercise. Have your dog run as often as they can, provided that they are supervised, to avoid accidents like being hit by a car or attacked by another dog.
2. Play with your dog. Run with your dog, have them chase you, or play Frisbee and fetch with them.
3. Have your dog spayed or neutered. It's proven that a spayed or neutered dog lives a longer life. Don't do this though if you want to breed your pet.
4. Provide a warm shelter to your pup. A dog outside is exposed to different elements and danger – natural disasters like tornadoes, rain, ice, snow, cold or heat, some violent creatures like other dogs in the neighborhood, other cats, or sometimes, bears, and harmful insects like ticks, fleas and other parasites. That's the reason why dogs, which are left outside become lonely, they bark and howl in a lonely tone. Let your dog stay inside your house - just remember to keep them clean. Our canine friends are most happy when they live with their masters inside the house.
5. Do not overfeed nor underfeed. Their proper diet depends on their age and breed. This also involves the right selection of type of dog food. High quality dog food can make your pet's stool firmer, smaller and less odorous, thus, easy to be picked-up. A good dog food makes your pooch's coat look shinier and healthier. You can consult a good veterinarian to ask about the appropriate feeding routine.
6. Provide them plentiful supply of clean water.

7. Encourage them to take a swim. According to experts, swimming is an excellent means of exercise for dogs. They enjoy it as well. Dogs are natural swimmers, though some breeds still need to be trained. Make sure they are supervised when swimming to avoid accidents – dogs can drown, too. Also, keep them hydrated by providing them clean water. There are swimming competitions for dogs. Who knows? Your dog could be the next swimming superstar!
8. Regular veterinary check-up. Once a year would be enough. This practice is lot better and less costly than visiting an expert when your pet becomes ill. This once-a-year check-up should include vaccines, de-worming, teeth maintenance, and flea and tick prevention. Ask your friends if they know a good veterinarian.
9. And the most important of all, do the natural – love your dog. Dogs can feel it if you like them or not. They can be depressed resulting to a weak immune system. Spend time with your pet dog. It could be time to play with them under the sun or cuddle with them inside the house on the couch while watching your favorite football game. Studies say that having a pet dog can increase a man's lifespan. Pet dogs can even help us keep the blues away and easily beat depression.

Healthy dogs have longer life and happier disposition. That means more fun being with them.

Caring for Old Dogs

If you have an old dog, it's not a good idea to get a new puppy. Just imagine that aged mutts are already incapable of excessive playing, unlike puppies, which are extremely playful. Old dogs cannot handle stress well. Get a new pup in your home while your existing canine pet is still in his or her best physical condition.

More than 60% of dogs which are 10 years and up may experience some of these symptoms of CCD.

1. Unable to recognize friends or family members.
2. Declining attentiveness.
3. Dropping off activity level.
4. Failure to remember housetraining and discipline. Perfectly trained dogs may forget all the disciplines when get older. They may urinate or defecate anywhere inside the house. Medical conditions like arthritis are positively causing these misbehaviors. One solution is to hire a pet sitter to more regularly have your mutt be taken outside for a walk to urinate or defecate. Put rubber rugs or some anti-slip mats on slick floors inside the house to help your dog avoid painful movements.
5. Being awake at night and change of sleeping patterns. Yes, older dogs tend to stay awake at night just walking around. Reasons for this behavior could be gradual loss of good hearing and eyesight.
6. Disorientation. Getting lost in familiar places or inside the house.

7. Excessive howling and vocalization, especially at night. This could be caused by stress and wanting to gain more attention. In this case, ignoring your pet dog can be a solution or slowly decreasing the amount of attention you're giving to them.

Older dogs are also apt to be sensitive to sudden loud noises like firecrackers, thunders, and alarms. In cases like this, medication can help but counter conditioning would be the best thing to do. An example of counter conditioning is if a dog got phobic of the sound of thunder, play a recording of a thunder at a very low volume level, if there's no fear displayed by your pet, reward him or her. On the next days, have them listen to louder volumes of the sound of thunder then do the same rewarding thing.

Aged dogs become more aggressive and extremely irritable for medical reasons (hearing and vision loss, immobility), new environment, new people and new puppies/mutts around. Using a collar to be able to control older dogs can help and sometimes, using a basket muzzle would be necessary. You can consult a veterinarian or an animal behaviorist to develop a plan that would work best for you and your pet.

It's usual for older dogs to display what they call 'separation anxiety'. This happens when a dog becomes uneasy when he or she senses that you are going to leave (i.e. going to work or school). Sometimes this starts when they hear your alarm clock. Anxious dogs urinate or defecate anywhere, howls and barks non-stop, or salivate profusely.

Conclusion

Hounds have different roles. Some dogs like the Siberian Huskies have duties of being sled dogs, Doberman Pinschers are known as guard or police dogs, most familiar dogs are the domestic ones that live with us – from small ones like Chihuahua to big ones like the Labrador Retriever. To be able to perform well on their duties, dogs need to be healthy, happy, clean and tick free.

Ticks are disasters to hounds, as much as lice to us humans. Ticks have their own ways of clinging to a dog to be able to have a blood meal to survive. Problem is, ticks bring diseases and are nuisance to our pets' health and daily activities.

Removing ticks from our canine buddies is a very essential part of our responsibility being their master, companion, and friend. There are proven ways of tick removal methods. Traditional ways of tick removal are organic and safe because of the absence of chemicals. Newly invented tools and formulas are convenient, easy to use, and are also safe as long as applied properly and carefully.

Pooches are evidently happy when they are tick-free. Being happy means longer life for them, healthier body, more playing, activities, and spending more fun times with them. Thus, more smiles, laughs and happiness for us.

As important as tick removal is maintaining them tick-free. Once we remove all the ticks from our pets, maintenance should follow. It's best to do this with the help of a good veterinarian. Keeping our dogs tick-free involves everyday checking, at least once a year check-up with a vet, avoiding walking them on bushy places, healthy diet, keeping a well-maintained and mowed yard, some supplements and medications if necessary (should be advised by a veterinarian), giving proper training and discipline, providing regular baths, use of some effective tick repellants, and use of treatments in some cases.

As our canine friends get older, they may need more attention, care, and understanding. More visits to veterinarians would be necessary as well to ensure their continuous wellness.

Keeping our pet dogs healthy is also keeping us and our family healthy. Basically, proper diet and exercise, warm shelter, regular check-up, genuine love and affection are all they need to be healthy and happy – just like us. Remember, study shows that having a pet dog gives us longer life. So, let's live longer and with more fun together with our canine buddies.