



The dangers are real

Common symptoms of Lyme disease include

- Fever
- Swelling of the joints
- Pain
- Loss of appetite
- Constant tiredness
- Lameness in the limb that is closest to the site of tick attachment⁵
- Arthritis

In rare instances, untreated Lyme disease can lead to more serious health complications such as

- Heart disease
- Neurologic disease
- Kidney disease



Lyme disease: It's time to assess your dog's risk

Answer these questions and discuss your answers with your veterinarian.

Yes or No Are there deer in or around your neighborhood?

Yes or No Has Lyme disease been found in people and dogs in your area?

Yes or No Do you live in a wooded area or near tall brush where ticks breed?

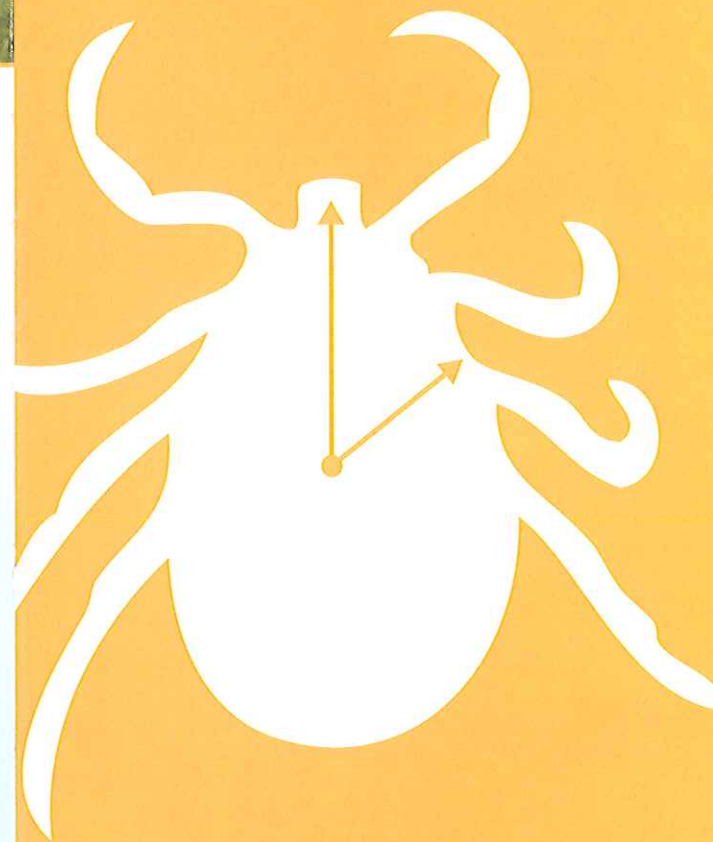
Yes or No Do you take your dog for walks, hikes, camping, picnicking, hunting, or fishing?

Yes or No Do you and your dog travel to areas that have a high risk of Lyme disease?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, talk to your veterinarian about vaccination today.

References:

1. VPI Pet Insurance. Top Infectious Diseases. <http://press.petinsurance.com/pressroom/247.aspx>. Published May 19, 2008. Accessed December 17, 2009.
2. Levy SA. Use of a C6 ELISA test to evaluate the efficacy of a whole-cell bacterin for the prevention of naturally transmitted canine *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection. *Vet Ther.* 2002;3(4):420-424.
3. Bacon RM, Kugeler KJ, Mead PS. Surveillance for Lyme disease—United States, 1992-2006. *MMWR.* 2008;57(SS10):1-9.
4. Straubinger RK, Dharma Rao T, Davidson E, Summers BA, Jacobson RH, Frey AB. Protection against tick-transmitted Lyme disease in dogs vaccinated with a multiantigenic vaccine. *Vaccine.* 2001;20:181-193.
5. Greene CE, Straubinger RK. Borreliosis. In: Greene CE, ed. *Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat.* 3rd ed. St Louis, Missouri: Saunders Elsevier; 2006:417-435.



Lyme disease
TICK...tock

Could it be
just a matter
of time?



Chances are your dog may be at risk

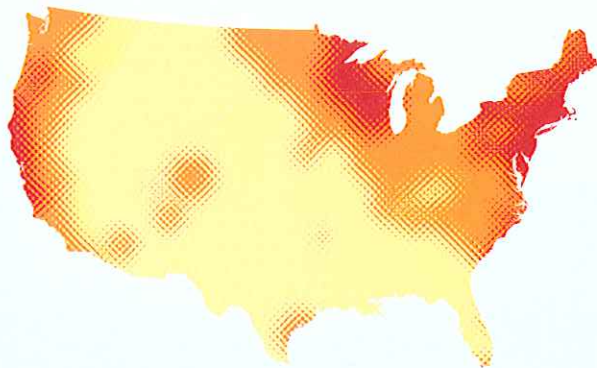
In 2007, Lyme disease was the cause of most pet insurance claims for infectious diseases.¹

In endemic areas, 41% or more of dogs were infected.²

Lyme disease has been diagnosed in humans in all 50 states,³ and in dogs in the 48 contiguous states.⁴

Risk of Lyme Disease Across the United States

● High Risk ● Medium Risk ● Low Risk



Disease risk varies locally. Ask your veterinarian.
Adapted from Bacon RM, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2008.

You can minimize the threat to your dog

Avoid the real costs of treatment by using preventive measures.

Typical treatment can be costly

- Expense of antibiotics
- Veterinary visits and cost of diagnosis and treatment

Prevention can be easy

- Brush your dog after being outside
- Examine your dog daily for ticks when the temperature is 40°F or warmer outside
- Remove any ticks you find with tweezers
- Ask your veterinarian about tick control and effective insect repellents
- Vaccinate your dog every year

Be proactive through prevention

Vaccination can help prevent your dog from being infected with Lyme disease

- Generates protective antibodies
- Antibodies from vaccination can kill the bacteria that cause Lyme disease as ticks feed⁵
- Most effective when first given at an early age
- Must be given once a year

Ask your veterinarian about vaccination today.

