

# Ehrlichiosis in Dogs: Fast Facts for Dog Owners

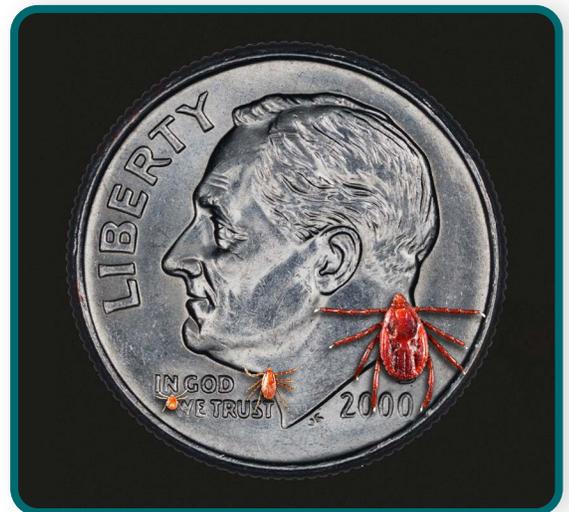


Ehrlichiosis is a disease caused by *Ehrlichia* germs. People and pets get ehrlichiosis from the bite of infected ticks.

- Some *Ehrlichia* germs, like *Ehrlichia canis*, only make dogs sick.
- Other *Ehrlichia* germs, like *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *E. ewingii* and *E. muris eauclairensis*, make people and dogs sick.
- Ehrlichiosis is not spread from person to person or from animals to people.

## Signs of disease in dogs

- Symptoms in dogs can start 1-3 weeks after the bite of an infected tick.
- Take your dog to a veterinarian if they are:
  - » not eating,
  - » act tired, or
  - » have signs of bruising or bleeding.
- Tell your veterinarian if you have seen ticks on your dog or if you have spent time in areas where ticks may be found, such as wooded and grassy areas.



Life stages of brown dog ticks (larva, nymph and adult).

## Treatment of ehrlichiosis in dogs

- Ehrlichiosis can be life-threatening if left untreated.
- If your veterinarian suspects ehrlichiosis, they can treat your dog with an antibiotic such as doxycycline.
- If your dog does not get better within 24-72 hours, bring them back to the veterinarian.



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## Testing for ehrlichiosis

- Your veterinarian will likely run a test for several tickborne diseases.
  - » One type of test looks for antibodies (the body's response to the germ). Antibodies may last for months to years, and your dog may test positive even after they have recovered.
  - » Another type of test looks for the germs that cause ehrlichiosis, and your dog will only test positive when they are sick.

## Tick prevention for pets

- Preventing ticks on pets can help protect them from diseases like ehrlichiosis. Pets can also bring ticks around people and homes, so preventing ticks on pets protects the whole family.
- Use veterinary-recommended tick prevention products, such as collars, topicals, and oral medications, on your dog year-round.
- Do NOT use human insect repellents on dogs.

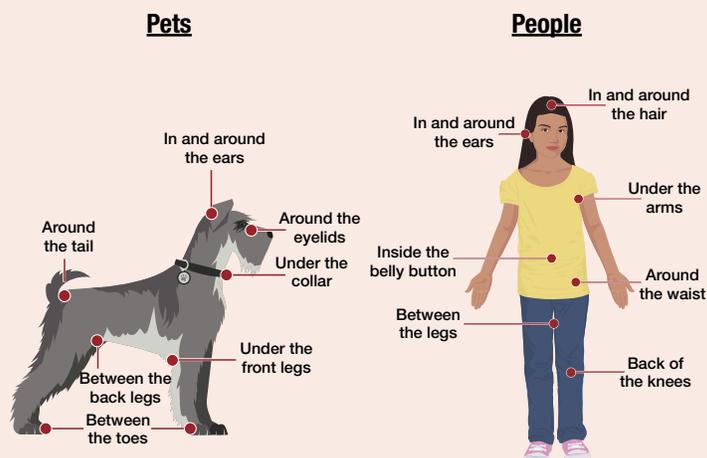
## Check for ticks

- Check yourself and your pets for ticks daily, especially after being in grassy, brushy, and wooded areas.
- Ticks can be active year-round, but are most active in the spring and summer.
- If a tick does bite you or your pet, remove it as soon as possible.

## Tick prevention for people

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents.
- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails.

### Places to look for ticks on pets and people



## To remove a tick:

- Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin's surface.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands.

