

## Tick Identifications

Except for American dog ticks, ticks cannot be identified with the naked eye.

A microscope is necessary to see the tiny body characters that distinguish one tick species from another. It is also necessary to measure the body parts that change with engorgement.

For an accurate identification, place the tick in a zip-loc bag and bring or mail to:

### **The TICK CHICKS**

218 Pine Tree Drive  
Cresco, PA 18326  
570-801-5372

## Risk Factors

1. The tick was identified as a deer tick
2. The tick was a nymph or female
3. The tick fed for over 24 hrs\*
4. The tick was acquired in Eastern Pennsylvania

\*We are able to determine the number of hours of engorgement, and will send a report to your doctor

## Lyme Disease Transmission

Lyme disease is transmitted to humans, dogs & horses by the bite of an infected deer tick. Nymphs are more likely to feed unnoticed for extended periods because of their small size, which increases the risk of infection.

Tick search for hosts ("quest") from the tips of grass and other vegetation. They climb onto host animals as they brush up against the plants. The DO NOT jump, hop, or fly. They feed on blood by inserting their barbed mouthparts – *not their whole bodies* – into the skin of the host. Broken mouthparts do not increase the risk of Lyme disease.

Ticks feed very slowly; a complete meal can take several days.

As they feed, they enlarge, or *engorge*. The longer an infected deer tick feeds, the greater the chance of Lyme disease transmission.

**Lyme disease vaccine:** LymeRix was removed from the market by SKB in 2002.

Fully-engorged deer ticks can be much larger than you imagine:

o to **O** or larger

## Prevention Strategies

**Personal Protection:** Long sleeves & pants, light-colored clothing, and repellents all help to reduce disease. A product with *permethrin* is also great for clothing and equipment only. Combined with a repellent like DEET, permethrin will give close to 100% protection. Non-DEET formulas are available for small children.

A careful examination of the entire body and head after times of possible exposure is essential!

**Rodent Control:** Removal of brush, leaves and tall grass from around the home may help reduce the number of tick-infested rodents.

**Deer Control:** Managing deer populations in areas where LD occurs may reduce tick abundance. Physical barriers – hedges & fence – and the removal of deer-favored plants may discourage deer from approaching. Tick Control: Applying pesticides to lawns and the edges of woodlands during spring and fall has proven to be effective in eliminating ticks at home.

Call us for an estimate!

## Pocono Tick & Skeeter Control, LLC

In the private sector since 2012, with over 40 years in public health, we are Tick Chicks.

We are fully licensed and insured to provide your pest control needs. Although ticks and mosquitoes are our specialty, we are also licensed to provide these other services:

- Aquatic weeds
- Commercial pest control
- Household pests
- Lawn & turf
- Right-of-way weeds
- Rodents & vertebrates
- Wood-destroying insects

Plus public speaking and demonstration

### Tick Removal

Risk of contracting Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases is decreased by prompt and correct tick removal.

- ▶ Using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the person's skin as possible
- ▶ Apply a steady, pulling pressure, enough to slightly pucker the skin
  - ▶ After removed, apply antiseptic to site
  - ▶ Place tick into a small zip-loc bag
- ▶ Any tick can be identified and assessed for risk of disease

#### **DO NOT USE SOLVENTS, VASELINE, HEATED OBJECTS OR NAIL POLISH TO ATTEMPT TO REMOVE TICKS!**

These irritate the tick and increase the chances of regurgitation and disease.

Breaking off the mouthparts does not increase the risk of disease, although it can cause a minor infection at the bite site.

WE CANNOT TELL YOU IF THE TICK IS CARRYING LYME DISEASE; WE CAN TELL YOU IF THERE IS A *CHANCE* THAT THE SPECIFIC TICK *COULD* TRANSMIT IT

## YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICK BITES AND LYME DISEASE



## Pocono Tick & Skeeter Control, LLC

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570-801-5372