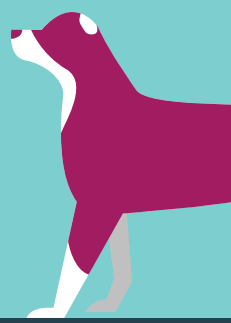


LYME DISEASE IN PETS



Lyme disease is spread through the bite of a deer tick. There are many deer ticks here in the city and county of Eau Claire. About 46% of deer ticks tested at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department have tested positive for Lyme disease.

PREVENTION

- Use reliable tick-preventive products on your cats and dogs. The types of products currently available include dusts, collars, sprays, and topical treatments.
- Work with your veterinarian to decide whether to vaccinate your dog against Lyme disease. This may depend on where you live, your pet's lifestyle and overall health, and other factors. There is currently no vaccination for cats.
- When possible, avoid areas where ticks might be found. These include tall grasses, marshes and wooded areas.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard.
- Check for ticks on both yourself and your animals daily and remove ticks as soon as you find them.



VACCINATION

There are a few vaccination options for dogs to protect them from Lyme disease. The typical course is an initial vaccination, followed by a booster vaccine 2 to 4 weeks later and annual boosters as long as the risk for disease exposure remains. Depending on your dog's age and other variables, your veterinarian may recommend testing your dog for Lyme disease before starting the vaccine series.



SYMPTOMS

Pets infected with Lyme disease may not show any signs for up to 2-5 months, they also may not show symptoms at all. If they do the typical symptoms include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Abnormal walk
- Joint swelling
- Decreased activity

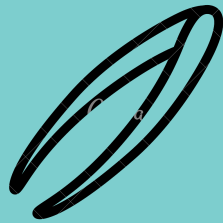
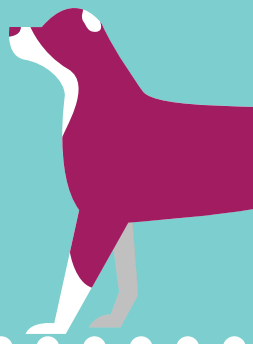


TREATMENT

Antibiotics are prescribed to treat Lyme disease in animals. The recommended treatment length is usually four weeks, but more time may be needed in some cases. Treatment for later stages of Lyme Disease is more difficult. It often requires longer courses of antibiotic therapy, and sometimes repetitive courses. Treatment failures and relapses can occur. It is important to bring your pet to the vet as early as possible if they have had a deer tick on them and they are showing symptoms of the disease. Your veterinarian may also prescribe a pain reliever if your pet is especially uncomfortable.



HOW TO REMOVE A TICK



- Try to remove the tick within 24 hours to reduce the risk of infection.
- Check your pet daily, and immediately when they have been outside.
- Use tweezers and wear gloves.
- Part your dog's hair around the tick.
- Place the tweezers around the tick, as close as you can get to the skin without pinching your pet.
- Pull up and away gently until the tick detaches, do not twist the tick.
- Clean the area afterwards with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Dispose of the tick or save it in rubbing alcohol for testing. For testing go to tickreport.com.