

LYME DISEASE

*When does my dog
need to be vaccinated?*



Answers to frequently asked questions about
canine Lyme disease.





WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

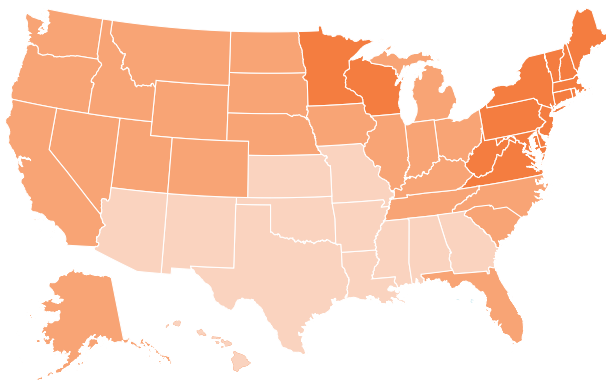
Lyme disease is a bacterial illness that can be transmitted to humans, dogs, and other animals by certain species of ticks, primarily the deer tick (pictured below) and the western black-legged tick. It is caused by the spiral-shaped bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted from a tick into a dog or person's bloodstream through a tick bite.

THE DEER TICK

Deer ticks are so tiny that they're barely visible to the naked eye, but they can cause big problems! Since they are so hard to spot, it is important if you live in an area where they (or other carrier ticks) are prevalent, that you discuss protecting your dog from Lyme disease with your vet.



U.S. Canine Lyme Disease Prevalence*



* Companion Animal Parasite Council. <http://www.petsandparasites.org/parasite-prevalence-maps/#2018/all/lyme-disease/dog/united-states/>. Accessed September 29, 2018.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LYME DISEASE?



While many dogs will not show any outward signs of illness, for those that do, arthritis and lameness are the most common symptoms of Lyme disease. In addition to painful joints, dogs may also experience fever, loss of appetite, and loss of energy. Symptoms – when they do appear – may come and go, may vary in severity, and can sometimes be mistaken for those of other conditions. **Since symptoms are not always visible, prevention is the best way to protect your dog.**

ARTHRITIS

LAMENESS

FEVER

APPETITE LOSS

ENERGY LOSS



HOW SERIOUS IS LYME DISEASE?

Lyme disease can become quite serious if left untreated. In the most severe cases, Lyme disease can lead to heart disease, central nervous system disorders, or even fatal kidney disease.

HOW IS LYME DISEASE DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian will typically diagnose your dog based on the recognition of Lyme disease symptoms and confirm it with a blood test. Diagnosis can be tricky in the early stages of Lyme disease because the blood test may be negative even when disease is present. Advanced disease can be confirmed through the blood test.



LYME

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



The medical term for Lyme disease is borreliosis, named for the *Borrelia* bacteria that cause the infection. The more commonly known name comes from the town of Lyme, Connecticut, where the disease was first identified in 1975 as the cause of a mysterious outbreak of arthritis in adults and children. The first report of Lyme disease in dogs occurred in 1984.



IS MY DOG AT RISK FOR INFECTION?

Lyme disease was traditionally thought to be limited primarily to the Northeastern region of the U.S., where deer tick populations were most dense. However, with the spread of tick populations and the warming temperatures, Lyme disease is now prevalent in the majority of U.S. states. If you live in or will be traveling to one of the states with a high or moderately high prevalence, Lyme vaccination may be beneficial for your dog.

It is very difficult to prevent your dog's exposure to ticks due to their tiny size. Not only are they tough to spot in the environment as they hide out in wooded areas and tall grasses, but they are also very difficult to see on your dog. Ticks can find their way onto your dog during normal activities including:

WALKS

HIKES

**OR ANYTIME
YOUR DOG
IS OUTSIDE,
EVEN IN YOUR
BACKYARD**



WHAT CAN BE DONE IF MY DOG BECOMES INFECTED?

The standard treatment for Lyme disease in dogs is a course of antibiotic therapy as prescribed by your veterinarian. Dogs tend to respond best to therapy when the disease is caught in its earliest stages. In some cases, symptoms can return and further treatment may be required. For this reason, **PREVENTION** is the best protection.

LYME RISK

No longer is Lyme disease risk limited to the Northeast. Positive cases have been reported across the U.S.¹



39 states with

high and moderately high reported prevalence of canine Lyme disease.¹





HOW CAN I PROTECT MY DOG FROM LYME DISEASE?

Here are 3 easy ways to minimize your dog's risk of Lyme disease:

1. Tick Preventative

- Use a veterinary-recommended oral or topical product year-round to kill ticks

2. Tick Checks

- Perform tick checks EVERY TIME your dog spends time outside

3. Vaccination

- Discuss your dog's lifestyle with your veterinarian to determine if your dog should be protected with a Lyme vaccine
- Vaccination helps to prevent transmission of the bacteria that causes Lyme disease

Tip: Take control of your yard.

- Create a barrier that makes your yard less friendly to ticks by providing a 3-foot buffer with mulch or stone to discourage ticks from crossing from the woods into your yard



IS LYME VACCINATION SAFE?

Dogs have been vaccinated against Lyme disease since 1990, and side effects have been rare. If they do occur, they are usually mild and typically resolve within a few days. Occasionally dogs will get a small, tender swelling at the injection site, which usually goes away very quickly.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT LYME DISEASE?

Ask your veterinarian if you have further questions about Lyme disease and explore these websites for further information:

[*stoplyme.com*](http://stoplyme.com)

[*www.cdc.gov/lyme*](http://www.cdc.gov/lyme)

Watch this video on how ticks transmit disease to dogs:

[*www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9d1MPHInXA*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9d1MPHInXA)



SHOULD MY DOG BE VACCINATED FOR PROTECTION AGAINST LYME DISEASE?

Take this survey to assess your dog's risk of Lyme disease.

*Check either **YES** or **NO**.*

- 1** Does your dog live in one of the 39 states with a moderately high to high prevalence of canine Lyme disease?

(AK, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, WI, WY.)

YES NO
- 2** Have you taken, or are you planning to take, a trip with your dog to one of these states?

YES NO
- 3** Do you ever take your dog on hunting trips, camping trips, or other outdoor activities?

YES NO
- 4** Does your dog spend time outdoors?

YES NO
- 5** Has anyone from your local area been diagnosed with Lyme disease?

YES NO

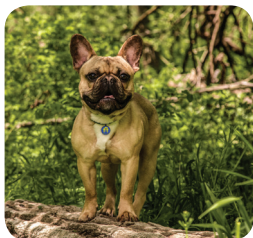


Share your answers with your veterinarian.

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, it is likely that your dog would benefit from Lyme vaccination.

5 WAYS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM LYME DISEASE

- 1** Use a veterinary-recommended topical or oral product year-round to kill ticks.
- 2** After a trip outdoors, check your dog for ticks. Remove any immediately.*
- 3** Be aware of any changes in your dog's behavior. Watch for signs of Lyme disease, such as limping, fever, lack of energy, or loss of appetite.
- 4** Have your veterinarian screen for common tick-borne diseases at your dog's next visit.
- 5** Make sure your dog is vaccinated against Lyme disease.



Visit [StopLyme.com](https://www.stoplyme.com)

* To learn how to effectively and safely remove ticks, visit:
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/flea-tick/how-to-remove-tick-from-dog/>

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