



Jill K. Clark, DVM

Dr. Clark is a graduate of Page High School here in Greensboro. In 1993, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She then attended North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine where she earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1998. Dr. Clark looks forward to continuing a career in small animal veterinary medicine and joined Cobb Animal Clinic in October of 2004 as a full time associate. Her special interests include geriatrics and feline medicine. She and her husband Kevin were married in 2004. Her family consists of sons, Lance and Brandon and also includes several four-legged members.



SPRING BRINGS "TICK SEASON"!

Spring is here and that means it is almost "tick season" around the Triad area! We've already seen numerous patients with ticks at our practice within the past month. Ticks are hardy parasites that are always looking for a blood meal, whether it is on your dog, cat or wildlife, such as deer.



The deer population has grown in the United States over the past few years, and they are a major host for ticks. One deer can support the development of 500,000 new ticks each year!


After ticks feed on the blood of deer, they fall onto the ground and some will look for a new meal, while others lay thousands of eggs. Ticks can lie and wait for a passing animal or person, latch on, and immediately begin feeding.

Ticks can transmit several dangerous diseases to your pet, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Cytauxzoonosis. These tick-transmitted diseases have devastating effects on your pet. They could suffer from chronic pain, debilitation, paralysis and in some cases, even death. That being said, there is no reason to panic if you find a tick on your pet. Your pet could potentially be bitten by many ticks during its lifetime and never contract one of these diseases, but that's no reason to "play the odds". Prevention is key when it comes to ticks, however no product

provides 100% protection. The companies that manufacture these products, advise consumers that there is usually a 95% efficacy rate. This means that if your pet were to run through the woods and be exposed to 100 ticks, while under the treatment of a flea and tick topical, they would still "pick-up" at least 5 ticks.

If you find a tick attached to your pet, simply grasp the head of the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull, using a straight out, steady motion. Don't be concerned about leaving the head in the skin, as this rarely happens. "Squish" the tick inside a tissue, so you don't touch any fluid that may come from the tick and then flush it down the toilet and wash your hands. Many times after removing an engorged tick, a welt-like bump remains for several weeks. This is known as a tick bite granuloma. If it persists for more than a few weeks or seems painful, let us take a look at the area.

Most veterinary practices carry a range of quality products that help kill and repel fleas and all stages of deer ticks, brown dog ticks, American dog ticks, and Lone Star ticks. There are various topical products for dogs and cats that are effective and come in easy-to-use applicators. Ensure you use a product labeled for cats, as some dog products are very toxic to cats. The most recent advancements in tick protection for dogs include NexGard and Bravecto, which are oral medications given either once monthly or every three months.

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See ad on page 10