

Angelique Fuller, DVM



Dr. Angelique Fuller is the owner/veterinarian at King's Crossing Animal Hospital in Oak Ridge, North Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and Production for Theater from The North Carolina School of the Arts in 1997, a Master of Science in Animal Health Science from The North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in 2003 and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from North Carolina State University in 2007. After graduation, Dr. Fuller worked full time at Guilford Jamestown Veterinary Hospital in Greensboro and as a relief emergency veterinarian at Carolina Veterinary Specialist and Emergency Services of Forsyth County. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Fuller has had a wide variety of life experiences and finds that her art and medicine backgrounds blend together seamlessly. Growing up, she has always had a love for animals and realized early that a pet's health and well-being played an important role in the human-animal bond.

Dr. Fuller, husband Brian and their son enjoy sharing their home with a cat named Burman and two dogs (Duncan and Goosie). They also have five beautiful chickens that they adore!

Lyme Disease –

It's Here, But do We Need to Be in Fear?

What is Lyme Disease?

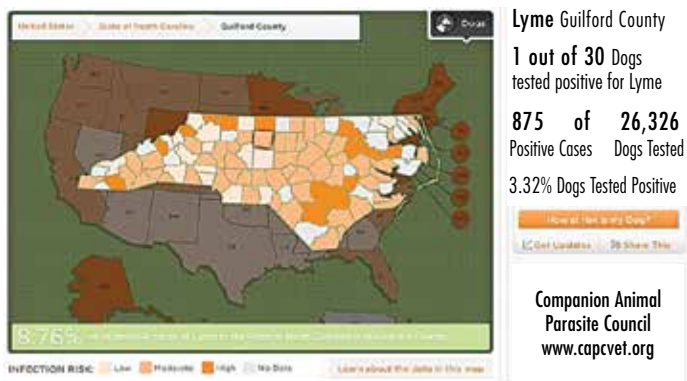
Lyme Disease is caused by a bacterial infection transmitted by a tick bite. The name of the bacteria causing the disease is called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Lyme Disease is currently the most commonly reported human vector borne disease in the United States according to the Centers of Disease Control. However, even though it is the most common reported disease, the majority of the cases (95%) are from 14 out of the 50 states.

But can dogs get Lyme Disease?

Yes, but the majority of dogs who test positive never get sick (about 95%). Unfortunately, we have no way of predicting for sure which 5% will get sick. Most of the clinical signs do not begin for weeks or even months after infection. Most common signs are joint pain and stiffness and less likely fever. However, the most serious complication associated with Lyme Disease is its potential effect on the kidneys. It can cause glomerular nephritis, a life threatening and most often fatal kidney disease.

But I heard Lyme Disease was only in the northeast US?

It's here also! I know everyone loves to research online, so if you want the most up to date stats for dogs check out Companion Animal Parasite Council (<https://www.capcvet.org>). The following picture shows the 2016 stats for Guilford County from capcvet.org.



My dog tested positive on a SNAP test... what does that mean?

Most veterinary hospitals routinely screen your dog for Lyme Disease and that is a good thing! The most commonly used in house

screening test is the 4dx SNAP test. This test detects C6 antibodies but gives no quantitative number. A positive test indicates that tick with the *Borrelia* bacteria has been attached for at least 24 hours. In areas with lots of ticks and dogs that get to spend a fair amount of time outside there will be a high number who test positive at some point.

Next Steps?


If your dog tests positive you have options: 1 – do nothing, which I personally do not recommend; 2 – further testing, a quantitative C6 test (although there is dispute among veterinarians of its value); urine protein (as a screening of kidney damage); CBC, Chemistry profile to check for low platelets and organ function; 3 – treatment. Doxycycline has been shown to work effectively against the Lyme bacteria and treatment is typically four weeks. In an ideal world you do both steps 2 and 3. Your veterinarian will be able to help guide you through the decision making process and take into account your dog's history and possible other health concerns.

How do I keep my dog from getting Lyme Disease?

Prevention, Vaccination, Environmental protection. Tick prevention is key in prevention. Here in North Carolina it is so important to treat your pet year round. Our "winter" is not cold enough or long enough to actually kill the tick population. And remember, not all tick preventions are equal in their effectiveness. Please ask your veterinarian what product is best for your dog. There are also effective vaccines against Lyme Disease. Your veterinarian can help you decide if vaccination is best for your dog. Studies have found that vaccinating positive dogs reduced the incidence of clinical signs by 60% compared to unvaccinated dogs and vaccinating negative dogs reduced the incidence of clinical signs by 85%, when compared to unvaccinated dogs.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This is definitely a disease that can be prevented, but can be challenging in tick infested areas. If your dog is unfortunate enough to develop kidney disease secondary to Lyme, the prognosis is grave. Because of this, I urge you to discuss options for prevention with your veterinarian and stay up-to-date on all problematic parasites at the Companion Animal Parasite Council website.

**King's Crossing
Animal Hospital** 
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Bibliography: Levy SA, O'Connor TP, Hanscom JL, Shields P, Lorentzen L, Dimarco AA. Quantitative measurement of C6 antibody following antibiotic treatment of Borrelia burgdorferi antibody-positive nonclinical dogs. Clin Vaccine Immunol. 2008;15(1):115-9.

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<https://www.capcvet.org/capc-recommendations/ticks/>