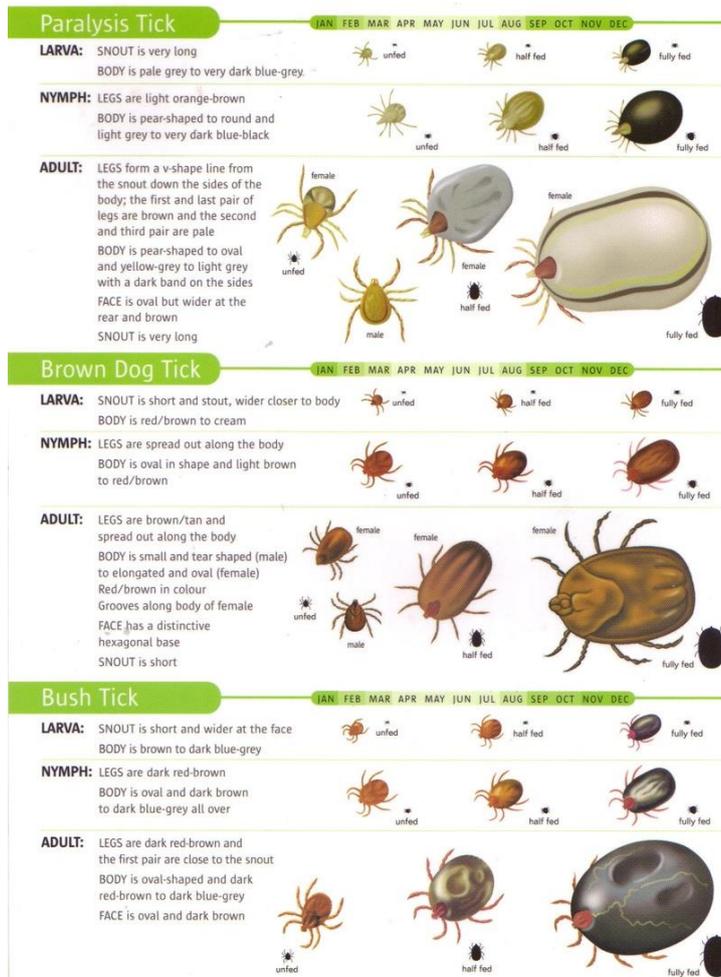


TICKS IN AUSTRALIA

These are three out of the twelve tick species of tick found on dogs in Australia they can all make your dog very sick if not found and treated but the worst one is the Paralysis Tick it can KILL your four legged friend if you don't do first aid on him or her and get them immediately to the vet. Once the tick has attached itself onto the dog it will gauge itself with the dogs blood by doing this it injects a very poisonous venom into the animal this venom is a neurotoxin and will paralyse your dogs .

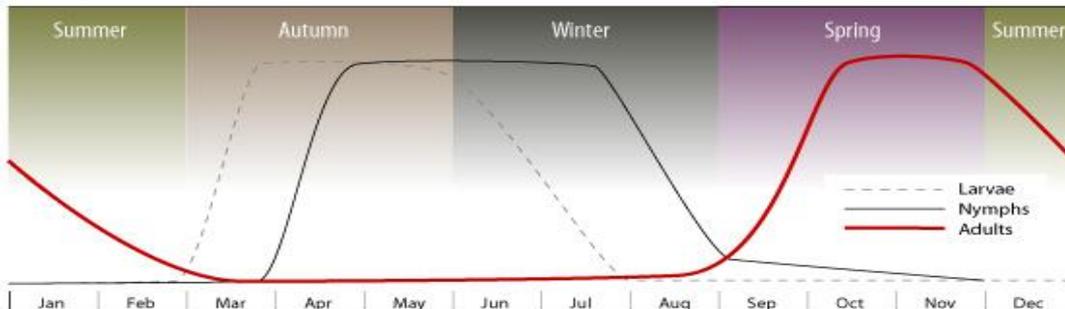


The paralysis tick has a four host life cycle; which means it needs to find a host and engorge each phase of its development (egg, larva, nymph, adult) during the year. The natural hosts are native wildlife such as bandicoots, possums, koalas and macropods but the tick occasionally will attach to domestic animals and even humans. Paralysis tick presents on the east coast of Australia only. Humid conditions are essential for survival of the paralysis tick. Dry conditions, relatively high (32°C) and low (7°C) temperatures will kill all stages after a days. An ambient temperature of 27°C and high relative humidity is thought to be optimal for rapid development.

The tick population in a given year is probably governed by the rainfall in the previous year if the temperature variations have only been moderate. If there has been a cold winter in South East Queensland and also drought, the coming season won't favour tick development.

WHEN ARE TICK MOST ACTIVE?

We should always be careful, but ticks are more around at certain times of the year. These are the times when we have to be extra alert and check our dogs twice a day for these nasty little critters.



WHAT DOES A TICK LOOK LIKE ?

Due to the small size of ticks it can be sometimes hard to tell the difference between species, and colour is not always an accurate identification tool. The best way to identify the dangerous paralysis tick from the other tick species is that their legs are all bunched up at the front of the body and the middle two pairs of legs are lighter in colour than their other legs. Please refer to the picture at the top of the page.

Did you know that the tick belongs to the family of the arachnids.

HABITAT AND HABITAT TYPE

Ticks are found in tall grass where they will wait to attach to a passing host (that is you, or your dog). Ticks can be found in most wooded or forested regions. Basically you can find a tick anywhere or should I say it will find you or your dog.

WHAT CAN I DO ?

When it comes to ticks, prevention is always better than treatment. There are a few different tick preventative products available that work either by repelling ticks or killing them once they make contact with or attach to the animal. There are spot-on topical treatments available that supply combined tick and flea protection for dogs and cats. For dogs, [Frontline Original](#), [Frontline Spray](#) and [Frontline Plus](#) all control paralysis ticks for up to two weeks and brown dog ticks and fleas for up to a month. [Advantix](#) repels and/or kills paralysis ticks for up to two weeks and brown dog ticks and fleas for up to a month. However, none of these products are or claim to be 100% effective and that is why it is still most important to check animals daily and be aware of any signs or symptoms of tick paralysis that an animal might have.

Because the Australian Silky Terrier and the Yorkshire Terrier is a small dog please check with your vet for advice on which in their opinion is the best for your dog.

ELIMINATE BREEDING SITES:

Make sure that there is no unnecessary long grass, overhanging bushes or scrub where your dog can run around, this will help to reduce the possibility of getting a tick.

YOUR TICK 'TO DO' LIST

CHECK YOUR DOG ALL THE TIME

When checking animals for ticks run your fingers thoroughly through their coat, making contact with the skin. Finding a tick on a long haired dog like the Silky or the Yorkshire Terrier can be more difficult, check all over the animal but pay particular attention to the areas where they are often found like the ears, face, around the mouth, under legs, under tail and between toes tick have been found in area that you would not think of.

If you do find a tick don't stop looking as it is not uncommon to find more than one tick on a animal at a time. A tick should be removed as quickly as possible to prevent any further poisons being released into the animal. To remove a tick use a pair of forceps/tweezers or a special tick remover, like a [Tick Twister](#) and grab the tick and twist. It is also best to keep the tick to show the veterinarian so they are able to correctly identify the tick, so they know if it is a paralysis tick or not.

Do not put chemicals like turpentine or alcohols on the tick as it will irritate the area and make the tick release more toxins before it comes off. Make sure to keep your dog calm because the poison of the Paralysis tick affects the cardiac system and the nervous system causing ascending paralysis.

SIGNS OF TICK POISONING CAN INCLUDE

- lethargy
- shaking
- panting
- anxiety
- confusion
- coughing or gagging
- a change in voice or bark
- salivation / drooling
- vomiting
- noisy / laboured breathing
- wobbling and lack of coordination
- inability to stand
- weakness or paralysis in the back legs, progressing to the front legs
- dilated / non responsive pupils.

STOP - SEEK VET ATTENTION NOW