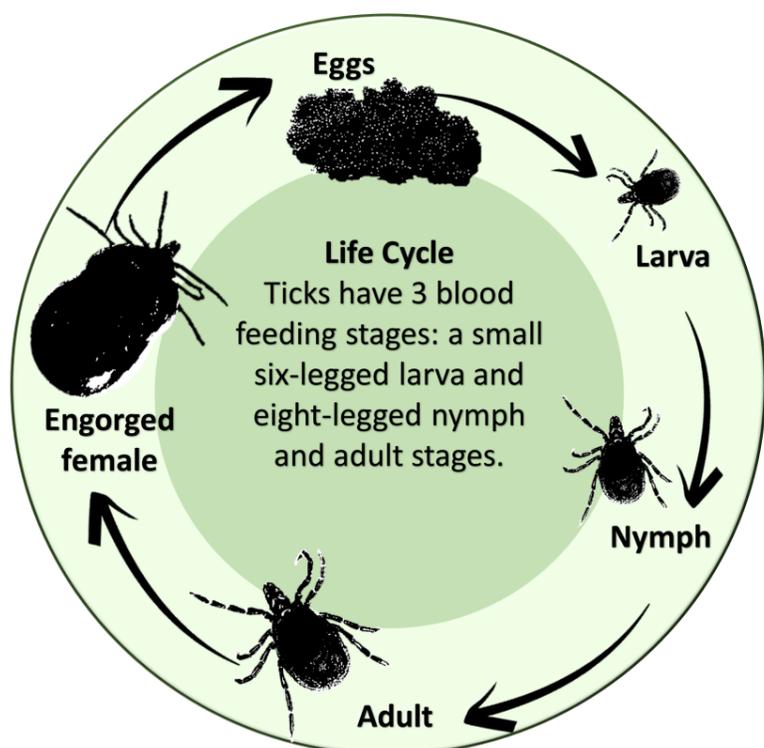




## IDENTIFICATION OF TICKS

Ticks are small arthropod parasites, related to spiders, that suck the blood of mammals, birds and reptiles and can cause problems when they bite us or our pets. They are usually found in areas of long grass, moorland or woodland, especially in spring and autumn. They remain attached to their host for several days and swell up with blood as they feed. Ticks can carry pathogens which can cause a range of types of disease. Talk to your vet about suitable protection, especially if planning to travel abroad with your pet.



*Ixodes* have long mouthparts. And are red/brown in colour. The most widespread group of ticks in the UK and Ireland—especially the castor bean tick, *Ixodes ricinus*. The very similar looking hedgehog tick, *Ixodes hexagonus* may be more common on cats. *Ixodes* are vectors of a range of pathogens, including Lyme disease.



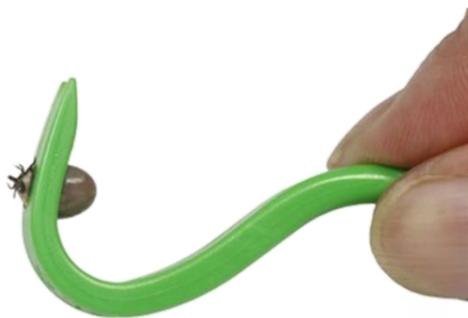
*Dermacentor* have short mouthparts, usually with a patterned upper surface (ornate) and a 'pie-crust' edge. Can be an important vector of disease in dogs, particularly in continental Europe.



*Rhipicephalus* have short mouthparts with a hexagonal shaped base. Uniformly red/brown in colour and pale rings on legs. This tick will live indoors and is not yet found in the UK, but is common elsewhere especially in southern Europe and can be found on imported rescue animals or animals returning from travel.

### Removing ticks.

Ticks are commonly found on and in the ears, between toes and in armpits, stomach and tail areas. Regularly examine your pet's coat thoroughly and, if a tick is found, it can then be most reliably removed using a tick removal device.



**WARNING:** Never squeeze or puncture an attached tick.

### Prevention

Speak to your vet for advice about preventing and controlling tick infestations. Various anti-parasitic agents can be used, but you need to use the one that is best suited to you pet and its lifestyle.

Larva

Nymph

Male

Female

Engorged female

