

Bugged



Pete Positive
Man of Extinction

**A Petri's Positive Pest Control Publication
dedicated to keeping our customers
informed about all aspects of pest control.**

Residential and Commercial • Indoor & Perimeter Pest Control • Lawn and Ornamental Spraying & Fertilizing • Termite Control Solutions



Chris Cavanagh, Editor with Petri's 3 newest family members

Editor's Comments

Tick and flea problems have been steadily on the rise over the last few years. It is suspected that this is due in large part to these pests' ability to develop resistance to veterinarian products such as Frontline or Advantage. Petri still highly recommends continued use of these products on pets since they are for the most part effective but additional treatment measures may become necessary to control tick and flea problems in and around the home in the near future.

Petri offers additional tick and flea control services should you develop a problem at your home or business. In this issue we have provided the basic facts about ticks and fleas to give you, the customer, a better understanding of these challenging pests.

Tick Facts

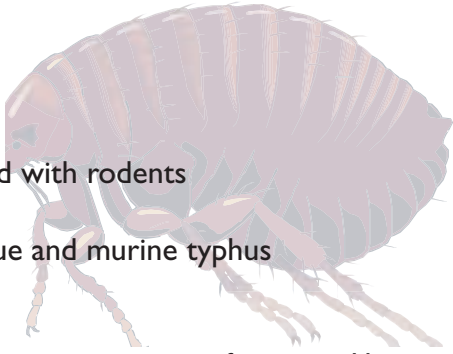
All ticks are parasitic, feeding on the blood of vertebrate animals. Adult ticks have eight legs. When feeding, the tick makes a small hole in the skin, attaches itself and inserts a barbed piercing mouthpart to remove blood from the host. The presence of ticks on animals and humans causes irritation and a loss of vitality. Tick wounds can ooze and become infected. Ticks can transmit Lyme disease, with cases noted primarily in New England where the primary vector is the Deer Tick.

Brown Dog Tick (*Most common in South Florida*)

- two year life span
- seldom attacks animals other than dogs
- found on dog, in dogs bed, undisturbed places, baseboards, cracks & crevices, carpet edges, drapes, furniture and wooden objects; check high and low as ticks are good climbers
- not known to transmit diseases to humans, but may transmit piroplasmiasis among dogs
- adult female can lay up to 3,000 eggs after engorging on a dog's blood
- female dies three to four weeks after laying her eggs
- male dies shortly after mating
- eggs are found around baseboards, windowsills, door casings, curtains, furniture, edges of rugs inside home where dog resides, in cracks on the roof of kennels and high on walls and ceilings of buildings
- females are often seen going up walls to lay eggs
- eggs hatch in 19-60 days
- hatchling is a small six legged seed tick, which takes its blood meal from dogs when they are available
- seed tick remains attached to host of 3-6 days, turning bluish in color and then dropping off the host to the floor
- seed tick then hide for 6-23 days before molting into an eight legged, reddish brown nymph that is ready for another blood meal
- nymph again drops off host and molts to adult in 12-29 days

(Continued on page 2)

FLEA FACTS



Petri's Positive Pest Control Who Cares? We Care!

Your satisfaction is important to us.
Please take a minute to let us
know how we are doing....

Clip this Survey and inclose with
your statement

Has our technician been on time for all
appointments?

Yes ___ No ___

Has our technician been courteous?

Yes ___ No ___

Has your pest and/or lawn problems
been taken care of to your satisfaction?

Yes ___ No ___

Has our office staff been helpful and
polite?

Yes ___ No ___

Has Petri's returned your calls promptly?

Yes ___ No ___

Have we returned to retreat in a timely
manner whenever necessary?

Yes ___ No ___

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Thank you,
Petri's Management

Identification

- up to 1/8" long
- wingless
- 75% of species are associated with rodents
- piercing, sucking mouthparts
- spread diseases such as plague and murine typhus

Life Cycle

- eggs fall off host so infestation is greater in areas frequented by pets
- emerges as a larva
- transitions to pupa in 6-36 days
- remains cocooned for 7-10 days
- while cocooned, transitions to an adult flea
- can remain cloistered for up to twenty weeks
- stimulated to emerge from the cocoon by temperature or vibration (human/animal activity)
- adult life cycle is 10-40 days, during which time the female adult can lay between 300-800 eggs
- highest priority of parasite is attaching to a blood host (mammal)

Control

- larva stage is the best opportunity for the extermination as boron based products are toxic to the larva
- thoroughly vacuum home, including cracks and crevices, all upholstered furniture and areas where pets sleep
- seal vacuum bags in plastic bag and immediately discard out of doors
- wash pet's bedding at highest temperature possible or discard
- thorough application of residual pesticide is essential, with special attention to carpeted areas and where pet stays most of the time, cracks at baseboard level and under, around and on furniture
- stay off treated areas until dry
- outdoor areas used by animal should also be treated
- pets need to be treated by either a veterinarian or the owner on the same day that the home is treated (do not re-introduce animal back into environment until both have been treated)
- thorough follow up visits are essential to effective flea control

Tick Facts *continued from page 1*

- reddish brown adult, now 1/3" long, seeks out blood host again, becoming engorged and bluish in color
- unengorged ticks in all stage can live for a long period with a blood meal
- adults have lived as long as 200 days without a food source

Control - Daily inspection and de-ticking of pet will help immensely. Carefully remove ticks from the host pet as soon as they are noticed. Use a hot needle or alcohol to get the tick to relax and then firmly grasp the tick with tweezers near its mouthparts and pull evenly/firmly. Examine the animal thoroughly but especially the ears and between toes. An extra thorough crack and crevice treatment of the interior with a simultaneous treatment of both the pet and the exterior where the pet frequents is necessary. Brown dog tick infestation is difficult to control and material applications at 2 to 4 week intervals will likely be necessary.