



TICKS

Ticks are blood sucking parasites.



There are several species common in western United States. They can produce anemia if present in large numbers on a pet by sucking out so much blood. Also they may carry dog diseases like “tick fever” (Ehrlichia) and dog and human diseases like Lyme Disease, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Ehrlichia is commonly seen in dogs in our area. One kind of tick can cause a kind of paralysis in dogs.

Once you find ticks on a pet, you should assume they are also present in your pet’s environment (your house, your yard, a dog run or dog house, etc.)

Important Points in Treatment

The elimination of ticks is a three-pronged attack. Get rid of the ones on the pet now, get rid of the ones in the pet’s environment, and prevent new ones from coming home with your pet.

1. On the Pet: The most effective direct treatment of the pet is Frontline’s Top Spot. It can be sprayed on for immediate effect, but is usually squeezed out of its applicator and down the pet’s back. It should be applied no closer than within two days of the last bath and should be left on at least two days first before the next bath. It is very safe and covers the animal with tick killing protection in about 24 hours. It is repeated monthly as needed.

If you see ticks on a pet that is being treated with Frontline then you need to treat your home and/or yard for ticks too.

2. In the pet’s environment: The yard, house, etc. must be treated effectively if ticks have become entrenched. This is best left to a professional pest agent such as Truly Nolen, Terminix or other service. Costs will vary, but these folks can use effective products that will not harm you or your pets.

For you do-it-yourself types, call Bug & Weed Mart in Tempe (480-820-5034) or Mesa (480-497-0535). They are helpful and carry the products needed to kill ticks.

3. To prevent reinfestation: If you live in an area where ticks are common or you are going to the mountains with your pets, treat them first with Frontline Top Spot. Remember, Top Spot lasts for a month against ticks. If you see ticks on a pet treated with Top Spot, you need to treat the area where the pet lives too.

4. Diet: Feed a diet high in protein and caloric density until your pet is in good condition. This would include high protein foods and puppy foods for dogs and kitten food for cats.

Feed as follows:

The signs of Ehrlichia or tick fever are varied but please notify the doctor if any of the following occur:

- Your pet shows white gums or tongue or shows any unusual bleeding from the nose or gums or has bruising into the skin.
- Your pet acts weak or depressed.
- Your pet has trouble breathing or is unstable.
- Your pet seems feverish or ill or loses its appetite.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!