

Deer ticks and dog ticks are the most common types of ticks found locally.

Note: Photos are not to actual size

Tip One

One of the easiest ways to tell the difference between a deer tick and a dog tick is to look at the markings in its back (also known as its shield or scutum). Adult deer ticks do not have any white markings on their back where adult dog ticks do.



(Deer Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*))



American Dog Tick/Wood Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

Tip Two

Adult dog ticks are relatively larger in size than adult deer ticks. The following table provides approximate sizes of unfed deer and dog ticks.

Deer Tick Size	Stage	Dog Tick Size
3-4mm	Adult Female	5-6mm
2-3mm	Adult Male	5-6mm
1-2mm	Nymph	1-2mm
<1mm	Larva	<1mm

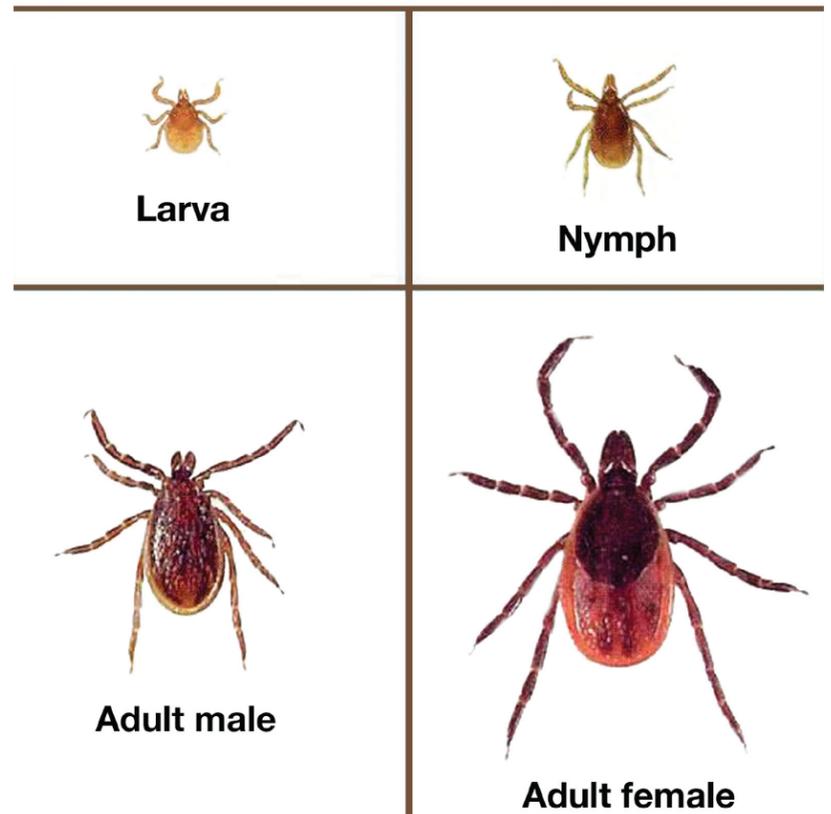
Habitat

Deer ticks are more commonly found in wooded and forested areas containing leaf litter that provides them with a moist habitat and animals to feed on.

American dog ticks are more commonly found in the tall grass and weeds that border roads and trails. They are also present where their hosts live including pastures, meadows, marshes, and the edges of lakes and streams.

The deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

(Photos not actual size)



Other Tips

- The mouth parts of a deer tick are longer than the mouth parts of a dog tick.
- Deer ticks have smoother backs than dog ticks.

If the Tick has Fed on a Person or Animal:

- The markings on the tick's back will still be visible (See Tip One).
- An adult female deer tick that has fed can grow up to approximately 10mm long.
- An adult female dog tick that has fed can grow up to approximately 15mm long.



Picture above shows female adult deer ticks at various levels of engorgement. Moving clockwise starting from the smallest – 0hrs, 24hrs, 48hrs, 72hrs, >96hrs is the largest.

Deer ticks can transmit Lyme disease.

Consult a Healthcare Provider if the tick that has bitten you is engorged, if you have symptoms, or are concerned about your health following a tick bite.