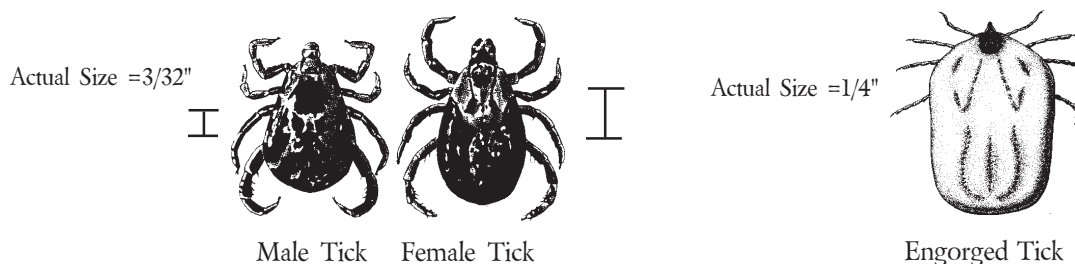


PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 4

BROWN DOG TICKS



GENERAL INFORMATION

Several kinds of ticks may be found in open spaces. Only one tick species, the brown dog tick, frequently infests homes and yards in Southern California. It does not breed in the woods or in open country. This tick is a parasite of dogs. The brown dog tick can transmit a bacteria that causes the illness Rocky Mountain spotted fever. This illness affects both humans and dogs, and if left untreated can be fatal.

HABITATS AND DAMAGE

If there are ticks in your home or yard, they probably are brown dog ticks.

After feeding on the dog, brown dog ticks hide in places such as cracks and crevices, under carpets and rugs, and behind baseboards where the female lays her eggs. Each stage of successive generations of ticks eventually finds the dog, feeds on its blood, and drops off to seek hiding places in the home to keep the cycle going.

FINDING A HOST

Most ticks spend the bulk of their life in cracks and crevices waiting for a suitable host animal. Since they cannot run, hop, fly, or move quickly, these ticks traditionally rest in cracks or crevices and find their host through the animal's body heat or breath. Once a host is located, the tick will climb on the animal and take a blood meal. Ticks remain attached to their host for 3 to 11 days.

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This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Pesticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact a structural pest control operator. No endorsement of trade names or products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

REMOVING A TICK

1. Using tweezers, grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible.
2. Gently pull the tick straight out with steady pressure.
3. Do not twist or jerk the tick. Do not try to remove by burning or applying Vaseline®, kerosene, etc., as this may cause the release of infectious tick juices.
4. Apply an antiseptic to the bite area after removing tick.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water.
6. Save the tick for identification. Contact your local vector control district or county health department for tick identification.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. Treat all pets with flea and tick control (K9 Advantix® or Frontline®).
2. Treat cracks and crevices with a residual pesticide around areas where animals live, eat, and sleep.
3. Handle pesticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
4. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
5. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
6. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
7. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
8. Dispose of all empty containers properly by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



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