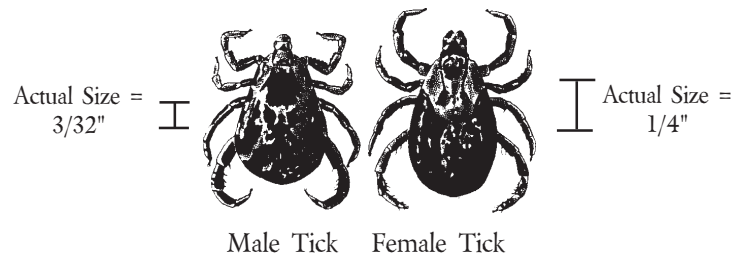


# PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 4

## TICKS OF ORANGE COUNTY



### PACIFIC COAST TICK

The Pacific Coast tick (*Dermacentor occidentalis*) is one of the most common ticks found in Orange County specially along the coastal regions. It is reddish brown in color with white or pale yellow markings. The male tick is about 1/8 inch long while the female is slightly larger. When engorged with blood the female can get about 1/2 inch. The Pacific Coast tick typically feeds on rodents and large mammals, this includes humans. This tick is a common vector for Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

### AMERICAN DOG TICK

The American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) is similar to the Pacific Coast tick and is found in the coastal regions of Orange County. Similar to the Pacific Coast tick, the American dog tick is reddish brown in color with white or pale yellow markings. This tick has also shown to be a common vector for Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

### WESTERN BLACK LEGGED TICK

The Western Black Legged Tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) is the only tick in Orange County that is known to transmit Lyme Disease. This tick is commonly found in humid coastal areas and in wild grasses and low vegetation in both urban and rural areas. The ticks will climb on the tips of vegetation along hiking trails and paths waiting for a host to brush against them. The Western Black Legged tick is reddish brown with black legs and is approximately 1/8 inch long, with the males being slightly smaller.

### BROWN DOG TICK

The Brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalis sanguineus*) is an important pest of dogs in Orange County. This is a common tick found around your home and usually enters on your dog. The Brown dog tick is about 1/8 inch long and uniformly brown. As the females feed, they can become engorged up to 1/2 long and 1/4 wide. Brown dog ticks rarely bite humans; however, their presence in the home is annoying, and they can make your dog's life very uncomfortable. After feeding on the dog, brown dog ticks hide in places such as cracks and crevices, under carpets and rugs and behind baseboards.

### FINDING A HOST

Most ticks spend the bulk of their life on or near the ground, waiting for a suitable host animal. Since they cannot run, hop, fly, or move quickly, ticks must climb onto an appropriate object such as tall grass or weeds or up onto fences and siding of buildings. It is from these advantageous positions that they wait for a suitable host to pass by. Once a host passes by the tick climbs on the host and can feed.

### DISEASES

Certain ticks can transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhus and have the ability to carry other diseases. Transmission of disease occurs during the feeding process. It is important to remove ticks correctly and as soon as possible. If a tick is found, the person involved should be active in looking for a rash or other symptoms that might occur with the following weeks.

### CONTROL

Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. To protect your pets a flea/tick control program can be utilized. If additional help is needed, contact with a registered pest control operator is suggested.

### PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and clean food preparation areas after use.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.

