

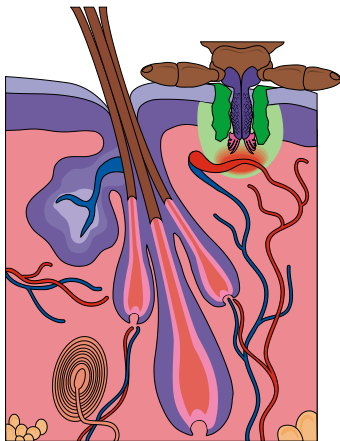
Ticks are tiny spider-like creatures that usually have a three year life cycle during which they attach to animals or people to feed.

Feeding ticks can pass on infectious diseases. Although uncommon, your pet may be at risk from the following tick transmitted diseases:

- **UK** - Lyme disease
- **Europe** - Ehrlichosis and Babesiosis.

It is best to use an insect repellent (Advantix) or insecticide (Frontline Spray, Frontline Combo) to deter and/or kill ticks, **but** we also advise you check your pet daily, particularly after walks in the countryside, for the presence of ticks and to remove any that are present.

To remove ticks safely, please follow these guidelines.



Mouth parts of *Ixodes ricinus* anchored in the skin of the host

### Do:

- Use a tick hook (highly recommended) - available from reception.
- If you don't have a tick hook, use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible without squeezing the tick's body; pull the tick out without twisting.
- If you don't have tweezers, use a cotton thread. Tie a single loop of cotton around the tick's mouth parts as close to the skin as possible, then pull gently upwards and outwards.
- Cleanse the bite site and tweezers with antiseptic before and after removal.
- Save the tick in a container in case of later symptoms (label with date and location).

### Do Not:

- Squeeze or twist the body of the tick as this may cause the head and body to separate, leaving the head embedded in the skin.
- Use your fingernails to remove a tick. Infection can enter via any breaks in your skin, eg: close to the fingernail.
- Try to burn the tick off, apply petroleum jelly, nail polish or other chemical. Any of these methods can cause discomfort to the tick, resulting in regurgitation or saliva release.
- Use vinegar or Vaseline® to kill the tick - they won't work.



*Ixodes ricinus*

### Further Information:

- [www.otom.com](http://www.otom.com) (tick hooks)
- [www.fleatickfacts.com](http://www.fleatickfacts.com)
- [www.advantix.info](http://www.advantix.info)
- [lymedisease.org.uk](http://lymedisease.org.uk)



## Quick Reference Guide



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