



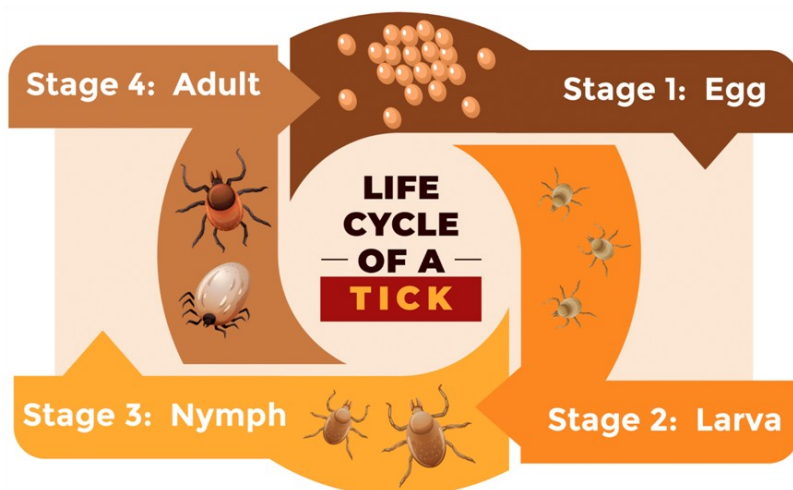
COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – MAY 2022

TICK SEASON

Now that the weather is beginning to warm up, tick season is upon us!

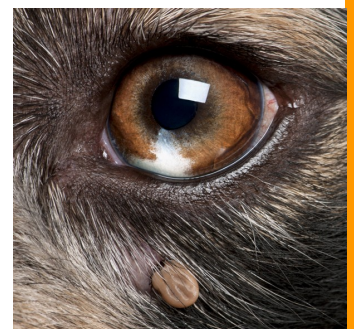
Ticks are 8-legged invertebrates in the same class as spiders and mites. They are classified as an external parasite, or ectoparasite, and feed off the blood of other animals. Ticks can be found in grassland, pasture, moorland and woodland – anywhere away from direct sunlight with stems they can climb up to attach to a host.

The life cycle of a tick is shown in the image below. The larval, nymph and adult stages all occur on a host, this could be an animal or a human host. Most ticks will feed and subsequently drop off the host, developing into the next stage (known as moulting). During this phase they are on the ground. Time spent on the ground varies between different species of tick, but ranges from months to years. They will then make their way up the stems of vegetation to find another host to feed before their next moult. If you find a tick on your animal, it may be in any of the 3 stages, but the majority seen are usually adult ticks as the larva and nymphs tend to feed on smaller animals such as rabbits, squirrels and birds. You can differentiate between the life stages of the tick by both its size and the number of legs, the adult is the only phase that has 8 legs, the other stages have 6.



As well as being blood sucking parasites, there are also the health risks associated with this creature! So called tick-borne diseases which can be transmitted to the host when the tick bites and feeds. These include diseases of the blood such as Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis. Some of these diseases (such as Lyme Disease), are also transmissible to humans. We need to ensure good tick prevention in order to reduce the risk of our animals, and subsequently ourselves, becoming infected with these diseases, which can be life-threatening.

and tick-borne diseases present abroad which are not currently present in the UK. If travelling abroad with your pet, it is advisable (although no longer legally required), to ensure your animal is treated for the prevention of ticks and help prevent the risk of importing new species and variants of disease. We have products available at the practice that will kill ticks or completely repel them. They come in many forms such as collars, spot-ons or palatable tablets. Please call to discuss your requirements with one of our companion animal vets.





Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month



A day in the life of a Registered Veterinary Nurse at Dalehead Veterinary Group.

Here at Dalehead, Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) are essential in the running of the practice and making sure that each day runs smoothly, whether that is front of house or behind the scenes. Here's a little insight into their daily routine...

8:00 INPATIENTS AND GETTING READY FOR THE DAY

At our main surgery in Settle we have our own inpatient facilities. It is the duty of our registered veterinary nurses (RVNs) starting at 8am to check on any inpatients, this includes taking dogs out for a comfort break, feeding breakfast, checking vital statistics and intravenous fluids, and giving any medication prescribed by the vets and noted on hospitalisation sheets. Once this is done it's time to prepare the consultation rooms for morning surgery. Both rooms require stocking checking and re-cleaning prior to appointments, and making sure the computers are started up. This ensures that they are ready for use at opening time for day patient admits and consultations.

8:30 OPENING TIME – THE REST OF THE TEAM ARRIVES!

- **DAY PATIENT ADMISSIONS** – Day inpatient procedures are usually admitted by the consulting nurse. They will go through the operation consent form with the owner ensuring that they understand the procedure and any other requests they may have; the nurse will also arrange a collection time for later that day. The nurse will then pass the information onto the operating vet and RVN in the prep room.
- **THE PREP ROOM** - While waiting for the day patients to be admitted, the operating and prep nurses prepare for the day's procedures. This includes deciding the procedure order with the operating vet, preparing the operating theatre, checking that the anaesthetic machines are ready for use and discussing the inpatients with the case vet.

9:00 – OPERATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

- **THE CONSULTING NURSE** – Once inpatients have been admitted, the consulting nurse will begin seeing owners and their pets for morning consultations. Veterinary nurses go through complex and thorough training to gain their qualification and never stop learning! Nurses are very well-informed about many subjects relating to domesticated animals but are not able to diagnose or prescribe medications. They can however, discuss many issues owners may have with their pet and can help plan, with the help of the veterinary surgeon if required, the best course of action. During consultations nurses will see pets for various reasons, ranging from 2nd vaccinations, nail clips, advice on parasite treatment or dietary and weight loss advice. The veterinary nurses at Dalehead are also responsible for carrying out post-operative checks for pets that have had a surgical procedure or other treatment. These are important to ensure that everything is going well following the procedure and they will usually examine the wound, or mouth following a dental procedure, and check your pet's chest, heart, and temperature to identify any complications.
- **THE OPERATING NURSE** – Once everyone has been admitted the operating nurse prepares the day patients for their procedure, this includes a quick cuddle from the prep nurse to take blood samples for pre-operative bloods and place intravenous catheters. Your pets receive a health check with the vet and any issues are passed onto the operating nurse, they then are given a pre-medication to keep them calm and ensure a smooth anaesthetic. The operating nurse on each procedure will monitor your pet and note down your pet's heart and respiratory rate, blood pressure and temperature throughout the procedure. Following the operation your pet is brought round from the anaesthetic and closely monitored by the nurses until fully awake in a nice cosy warm kennel. Once all the procedures are complete the operating nurse will then clean down the operating theatre and equipment then contact the owners to let them know all is well and confirm their collection time. Each pet is provided with a meal and fresh water while they continue to recover and is closely monitored by the nursing team.

TIME FOR LUNCH (Our lunchtime schedule is split between 2 teams, 12-1pm and 1-2pm)

14:00 – THE AFTERNOON

ORGANISING PETS FOR DISCHARGE – The nurses continue to monitor all patients until it is time to go home and provide them with any extra pain relief and comfort breaks as required. Inpatients usually have an appointment to go home during the afternoon nurse consultations, and the nurse who has assisted the vet during the operation will usually be the person who is discharging the animal as they are aware of the procedure and any information which is needed to be passed on to the owner.

CONSULTATIONS – Similar to the morning, pets and their owners will come in for their 2nd vaccinations, nail trims, well pet and weight clinics, tick removals and pre/post-operative checks. The nurse will discharge day patients and discuss all the post-operative care and medications they require at home with their owners. Advise about what may have happened on the day and issues to look out for, particularly with wounds which may require advice on wound dressing care.

CLEANING & ORGANISING – This is carried out by the whole nursing team and includes interacting with inpatients that are hospitalised, taking dogs out for a comfort break, giving medications and some enrichment, and various cleaning tasks such as sterilisation of operating equipment in the autoclave, replenishing materials and stock, disinfecting the consultation, prep and theatre areas. Consent forms, operating lists and anaesthetic sheets are prepared for the next day and the operating theatre prepared for the procedures.

17:30 – 18.30

EVENING SURGERY AND OUT OF HOURS SERVICE – The on-call nurse will stay on at the practice until the end of evening surgery and be available to help the veterinary surgeon and attend to owners at reception. Inpatients are also checked and any medication administered, and owners are updated on their condition. Dalehead Veterinary Group provides its own 24/7 out-of-hours emergency service for our clients. The on-call vet and nurse are always available if your pet requires emergency treatment, and this service is manned by members of our own team.



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Check out our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

