



Strong bonds are
built with great care.™

Ticks

#1 Tip

Protect Yourself and Your Horse from Tick Exposure

When it comes to tick-borne disease, "prevention is the best cure." Following these recommendations can limit tick exposure:

- Limit your horse's access to wooded sections and the boundary areas around woods
- Keep pasture grass mowed
- Do full body checks on your horse and yourself after riding
- Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to see ticks
- Apply repellent to yourself made for humans and to repel ticks
- Apply equine spot-on products or on-animal spray repellents approved for use on horses and that are specifically labeled for use against ticks (spot-on products are especially helpful for pastured horses and those with high risk of tick exposure that cannot be checked for ticks on a daily basis)

#2 Tip

How To Properly Remove a Tick

Forget those old folklore "remedies" of removing ticks by burning them with a hot match, or "smothering" them with petroleum jelly. Not only do these methods not work, but they can actually cause the tick to release more saliva, which can increase the odds of infection or disease transmission. Instead, if you find a tick on your horse or yourself, remove it with a pair of fine-tipped tweezers or forceps. Protect your fingers with a tissue or pair of rubber gloves. Holding the tweezers as close to the skin as possible, grasp the tick by its mouthparts and pull out with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk, and don't squeeze the tick's body, as this can release infectious organisms. Once removed, drown the tick in a dish of soapy water or just flush it. If you have any concerns and want to save the tick for later identification, put it in a jar of rubbing alcohol to kill it. Clean the site thoroughly with antiseptic made for equine use (or on yourself, one made for human use). Wash your hands well with soap and water.