

## The season of the tic is coming

### For ckcs.se tic fact

*Now it's time again, we are getting in to the season of the tic,  
But how much of fact do have about the tic, how is the tic's cycle of life look like, what do we have to think about!*

*And can our loving dogs get badly sick after a tic bite?*

*Follow us on ckcs.se when we go true the fact of the tic to learn more.*

*Soon is the paper filled with articles spreading around the country of the dangerous tic?  
And if you think about it is almost funny that a small animal as the tic can make so big headlines in the press, and of course are we getting scared and starts to ask our self's a whole lot of questions around the tic.*

### The spreading and history of the tic

During the last years we have seen an increasingly spreading of the tic and the problems we see depends of changes in our environment, the deferenens depends on the changes in the environment cycle; it's a benefit for the tic, so in some parts of Sweden we can really see the difference of increased numbers of tics. The researchers does not jet know if this is a permanent change our, if is pending, they are working really hard to come to a conclusion. But as we all know can the statistics be different depending on the way of HOW they treat it. The most common is a threshold value.

They do know that the tic has been in Sweden for a long time and up to 99 % of certainty say that it came to us with the first mammals that became domestic right after the is age, and that the tic has spread its Lyme-disease (Borelli) at least a hundred years.

But at this point it is still too early to tell the increased numbers of tics, because there is no old fact to compare to the new ones we have today.

One of the reasons that the press writes so much about the tics is that the USA has noticed the disease Borelli, but in the US it goes under the name Lyme-disease, that comes from Lymne in Connecticut. And of course that increases our interest of getting more fact about the tic. The biggest group that feels the increasing of tics is animal owners, hunters and peasants.

So if we really wane understand the problem around the tic is it important that we learn the ground facts of the lifecycle of the tic and look at the natural hosts in the nature.

### The Tic

The tic is categorized as mites and to that group we have spiders and Scorpios as well. The tic is feedings blood at four times in a cycle from egg to nymph, but the female have to feed further to be able to produce eggs, in difference from the male that doesn't feed as a grown tic. A tic becomes 2-3 years old. It most commend in deciduous forest, whit dampness short under vegetation.

The most commend host for the tic is field-mouse, dear and mice, but even our domestic animal as dogs and cats, and people.

### Tic season

There is good protection for the animals, and one of them is called Frontline and can be bought at the pharmacist, but some of the protections are available on prescription only at the veterinarian. The stronger protections are a good choice if you are in the risk son.

Now isn't the risk of being sick of a tic so big, because the most commend is you never notes being bitten by the tic its already dune feeding, and has loosen its grip, to seek anew hosts.

The tic can feed up to five days on the same animals our hosts.

There are vaccinations against the TBE-virus and against the (Borrelia) Lyme-disease you will get antibiotics and that goes even for the ehrlichia bacteria. The last one is most commend on animals.

### **Risk zones**

Islands around the Baltic Sea is big risk zones for spreading TBE and Borrelia, other from that in Sweden are zones like Bornholm, Åbo and the entire archipelago and Baltic not to forget Poland. If your traveling with your dog can it be good to know about the risk zones, we have some more in Europe, south of Germany, Slovenia, Czech, Hungary and Austria.

Summarized is that there are 100 different species of tics in the whole world, but in Sweden it comes down to sum of 11-15 different sorts of tics. And as we so well known can the tic bring so dangerous diseases to us and our pets.

### **Diseases from the tic**

As I told you earlier the press has increased the articles of the tic and the diseases from it, and then I think of the most commend ones like Lyme (Borrelia) and ehrlichia that is important to learn about because of the spreading from the tic to our domestic animals such as dogs.

In the beginning of the 80<sup>th</sup> was the first article that described Lyme disease at the dog. In the beginning of 90<sup>th</sup> was ehrlichia described, caused of the kockobacill.

### **When to suspect disease from the tic**

Lyme & Ehrlichia can be hard to trace and keep apart; so alike are the two diseases. But it's good to have in mind have we been in the risk zone for tic born diseases and to look for clinical symptoms. The symptoms can be spread over the year and can appear when ever, so if you know your dog been bitten for one our majority of bites.

### **Borrelia/Ehrlichiainfektions symptoms**

The first common symptoms are high fever, drossiness, lack of appetite, limping and no will to move, and in some cases the nerv system is affected. If infected with Ehrlichia can bleeding arise and in some cases even anemia, but the ordinaries symptoms are commend disorders in the movement system and tiredness.

**The diagnose** compiles by a blood test on the dog that shows the antibodies in the blood, and if Ehrlichia turns up acute can even the white blood corpuscles change.

**Treatment** most of the animals doesn't show any symptoms of the viruses, and heal it self after a wile, but if you have a dog that has been infected badly by the virus Lyme our ehrlichia is it treated with antibiotics and the animal is recovering completely after that, and very seldom contains any consequence after the tic bite. An infected dog that has recovered are easier infected a second time of tics.

### **Other diseases of tics**

- **TBE-virus** (brain inflammation)
- **O-fever** (arise of *rickettsien Coxiella burnetti*)
- **Tularaemia** (arise of *bacteria Francisella tularensi*)
- **Babesios** (arise of *protozo, Babesia divergens*)

Probably there are more diseases I could tell you about, but the diseases above are the most common ones from the ticks bite. So don't forget your dogs tick bites, and should it look red infected or extra hot keep an extra eye open on it, just to be on the safe side.

So take extra care of your self's and your dogs this summer.

*Lena Svalling Ekdahl*