



TICK

IDENTIFICATION CHART

KC METRO

06/10

2026 EDITION

Four ticks bite people and pets around KC. Know them, check nightly, remove them right.

#1 TICK IN KC YARDS

Lone star tick

Aggressive, actively hunts hosts, and the tick behind alpha-gal (red-meat allergy).

TICK SEASON

April - October

Adults & nymphs peak May-July; nymphs the size of a poppy seed cause most bites.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

CHECK WITHIN

24 hours

Most tick-borne germs need hours attached to spread — a nightly tick check is the best defense.

YARD TREATMENT

Edges, shade & tall grass

We treat the yard edge, leaf litter, brush lines and shady beds where ticks wait — 2 to 3 times a season.

**AMERICAN DOG TICK***Dermacentor variabilis***3/16" UNFED RMSF · TULAREMIA**

- Brown with ornate whitish markings on the shield
- The tick most often found on dogs and people in KC
- Waits on grass along trails, paths and yard edges
- Adults peak April-July; larvae and nymphs feed on mice

Where: Tall grass, trail edges, dog runs & bedding

**LONE STAR TICK***Amblyomma americanum***1/8-3/16" EHRLICHIOSIS · ALPHA-GAL**

- Reddish-brown; female has one white dot on the back
- Fast and aggressive — it walks toward you
- All three life stages bite people; bites itch for days
- Larvae ("seed ticks") hit in clusters Aug-Sep

Where: Woodlots, leaf litter, shady yard edges, deer paths

**BLACKLEGGED (DEER) TICK***Ixodes scapularis***1/8" LYME · ANAPLASMOSIS**

- Dark legs and shield; orange-red body on the female
- Nymphs are poppy-seed size and easy to miss
- Adults active Oct-Apr on warm days; nymphs May-Jul
- Rides in on deer, mice and birds

Where: Wooded areas, leaf litter, stone walls, deer trails

**BROWN DOG TICK***Rhipicephalus sanguineus***1/8" KENNEL TICK**

- Uniform reddish-brown, narrow body, no markings
- The only tick that completes its life cycle indoors
- Builds up in kennels, crates, baseboards and dog beds
- Rarely bites people; arrives on dogs from kennels & shelters

Where: Indoors around dogs: crates, bedding, wall cracks

LIFE STAGES (BLACKLEGGED TICK)**LARVA · 6 LEGS**

0.5 mm — a speck; "seed ticks" in late summer.

**NYMPH**

1.5 mm — poppy seed; causes most human bites.

**ADULT MALE**

2.5 mm — sesame seed; rarely feeds long.

**ADULT FEMALE**

3.5–4.5 mm; swells to a grape when fed.

ILLNESSES SEEN IN MO & KS

- ★ Ehrlichiosis (lone star) — Missouri reports some of the highest case counts in the U.S.
- ★ Rocky Mountain spotted fever & tularemia (American dog tick)
- ★ Alpha-gal syndrome (lone star) — allergy to red meat
- ★ Heartland & Bourbon viruses — first found in Missouri and Kansas
- ★ Lyme disease & anaplasmosis (blacklegged) — lower risk here, but present

✓ REMOVE A TICK THE RIGHT WAY

- ✓ Fine-tipped tweezers as close to the skin as possible
- ✓ Pull straight up, slow and steady — no twisting, burning or petroleum jelly
- ✓ Wash the bite and your hands; disinfect the tweezers
- ✓ Save the tick in a bag with the date — note the bite for 30 days
- ✓ Fever, rash, aches or a spreading bullseye — call your doctor

KC FIELD NOTE Lone star larvae ("seed ticks") come in clusters of hundreds in August and September — walk through one and you get dozens of bites at once. A lint roller or wide tape pulls them off skin and clothing before they attach. Treated clothing and an EPA-registered repellent, used as the label directs, are your best protection on trails and around the lake.



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