



Beaver Brook Animal Hospital  
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## Spring is Here... and so are the Ticks!

Spring brings lots of sunshine, rain, flowers and of course little 8 legged critters we love to hate – ticks! There have already been tick sightings which have resulted in media coverage throughout the U.S. Whether it is the warm winter, the acorn population, and/or the mouse or deer population being blamed all the articles point to this year being a bad tick year.

Not only are ticks gross but they can carry a number of diseases transmittable to humans and dogs. The most common seen here in Connecticut are Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis. Signs can be very vague ranging from “just not doing right” to fever and overt lameness to bleeding disorders. Of these only Lyme disease has a vaccine available for dogs.

Prevention of disease is much easier, safer, and less expensive than treatment. Vaccinating your dog with the Lyme vaccine as well as monthly tick prevention with a good topical product such as Frontline Plus or Advantix II can be over 95% efficacious in preventing tick borne disease transmission. Although cats are naturally resistant to Lyme disease as well as the other tick borne diseases a good topical preventative should be used on them also to prevent other parasitic infections and to prevent them from bringing ticks into the home. Beware though not all topicals work the same! Be sure to talk to your veterinarian about what brands he or she recommends and why.

So get a head start on tick season this year. If not already on flea and tick prevention, start it and continue it monthly all year round. Make an appointment with your veterinarian to see if the Lyme vaccination is appropriate for your dog. Talk to your veterinarian about yearly screening blood tests to see if your dog has already been exposed. And most importantly enjoy your spring and summer knowing your pet is as protected as can be.

Dr. Monica Dijanic  
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*\* To learn more spring and summer pet tips visit the Wethersfield Library website at <http://www.wethersfieldlibrary.org/news/upcoming.html> for information about the “Pet Awareness” lecture on April 19, 2012*