

## TICKS

Ticks are parasites that can become attached to the skin of your pet.

At first they are tiny - only 2-3mm across, but as they feed can grow to the size of a pea with an easily seen grey body. They latch onto your pet from infected grassland, commonly where sheep have been grazing, and are at their peak from March to June and from August to November.

Small numbers of ticks often cause local irritation but, in large numbers, ticks can cause anaemia from loss of blood. Most importantly ticks spread Lyme's disease. This is an infection which can affect the skin and occasionally cause serious illness of the nervous system, joints or heart.

Due to this major health issue, the old advice of merely letting the tick drop off after feeding is now regarded as inadequate.

### Tick removal

***Ticks must never be pulled off***, as they leave their mouth parts in your pet which can lead to infection.

Ticks can be removed either with a special tick hook, or via direct application of any tick effective insecticide (Frontline, Advantix, Stronghold, Advocate).

Tick tweezers are available from the surgery, where you can also get advice as to how to use them safely.