

**Fact or Fiction: Are there flea and tick *dangers* you are unaware of that can affect your dog?**

1. Fleas and ticks are only active in the spring and summer months

FICTION: Fleas can survive for up to 5 days at 33.8°F and on warm days in January and February, ticks can become active again even with snow on the ground!1,2

1. Ticks can only be found in heavily wooded areas

FICTION:  Ticks can be in your backyard! Keeping your yard free of tall grass, brush, and other debris, as well as wild animals, can help reduce the number of ticks.3 If you have a wooded area around your house, it is recommended to create a 3-foot wide barrier of gravel or wood chips between the wooded area and your backyard.3

1. Fleas and ticks can cause health problems for dogs and people.

FACT: Fleas can cause allergic skin reactions and transmit diseases in dogs and people.1 While ticks can transmit a variety of diseases such as Lyme disease and the potentially fatal Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.4 It is important to know that the brown dog tick can get carried into your home on your dog. Once inside a home, they can cause a severe infestation that can be challenging to eliminate. 5  This poses a health risk to both the humans and dogs living in the house.5

1. If you can’t see fleas, they are not a problem.

FICTION: If we can’t see fleas on our dog, we may be tempted to think they aren’t a problem. However, adult fleas are only a small part of what is happening in our home. While adult fleas can “live” on the dog, their immature stages exist in the environment. In fact, adult fleas living on your pet account for just 5% of the total population of fleas in your environment.6 That means 95% of the flea population live where you can’t see them! Another reason why you should protect your dog with year-round protection!

1. Leading experts recommend year-round tick protection for ALL dogs.

FACT: Per the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) –

“All dogs should be treated year round and throughout their life with tick control products to limit infestations on the pet, reduce the number of ticks in the environment around the home, and prevent establishment of brown dog tick populations in the home.” (Companion Animal Parasite Council – [Companion Animal Parasite Council | Ticks (capcvet.org)](https://capcvet.org/guidelines/ticks/) accessed on 8/14/23)5

Check out this flea and tick product for your dog:

* [ACTIVYL® Protector Band](https://www.merck-animal-health-usa.com/activyl), long-lasting collar that protects dogs from fleas and ticks. Using a new collar every six months provides year-round protection.

References:

1[Companion Animal Parasite Council | Fleas (capcvet.org)](https://capcvet.org/guidelines/fleas/) accessed on 7/11/21

2Carroll JF, Kramer M. Winter activity of *Ixodes scapularis* (Acari: Ixodidae) and the operation of deer-targeted tick control devices in Maryland. J Med Entomol. 2003;40:238–244.

3Stafford KC III.  2007.  Tick Management Handbook.  Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.  p. 47-49. Available from the website of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/caes/documents/publications/bulletins/b1010pdf>

4[Companion Animal Parasite Council | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (capcvet.org)](https://capcvet.org/guidelines/rocky-mountain-spotted-fever/) accessed on 08/14/23

5[Companion Animal Parasite Council | Ticks (capcvet.org)](https://capcvet.org/guidelines/ticks/) accessed on 8/14/23

6Blagburn BL, Dryden MW. Biology, treatment, and control of flea and tick infestations. Vet Clin N Am Small Anim. 2009;39(6):1173-1200.

© 2023 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.