

## ***Protecting Your Dog from Lyme Disease***

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April is Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month, so here are some facts to help keep your four-legged best friends safe!

Lyme Disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) is transmitted from infected deer ticks and is a very serious health problem for Americans across the country. But we aren't the only ones who can suffer from it – our dogs can get it, too.

The states of Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania have the highest reports of positive tests for Lyme Disease in dogs, but there are reports in all 50 states. This is good to keep in mind if you do any traveling with your pet, and especially if it involves being in wooded areas.

But how can you prevent it?

Here's some tips from <https://iloveveterinary.com/blog/prevention-lyme-disease-dogs-month-april-2018/> :

*The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to put your dog on a strict, spot-on, tick control regimen, and always after walks in the park or places with tall grass to check the dog as thorough as you can. If you find a tick, never try to pluck it out with bare hands. Always use gloves and specialized tweezers for ticks. If you are not sure how to take the tick out, take the dog to the nearest veterinarian as soon as possible.  
In some countries, there is a vaccine available that can protect your dog against Lyme disease.*

*Ask your veterinarian about the occurrence of Lyme disease in your area, and if the vaccine is available and necessary.*

It is important to note that some dogs may not show symptoms if they contract Lyme Disease, or they may not show signs of it for the first two to five months. That's why prevention is always the best, first step in control Lyme Disease in dogs.