

Brown Dog Tick Control

Indoor – Kennel Tick control

Michael W. Dryden, DVM, PhD
E.J. Frick Professor of Veterinary Medicine
College of Veterinary Medicine
Kansas State University
Manhattan KS 66502

In North America the only tick that infests buildings is *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, Brown dog tick. It occurs throughout North America and Hawaii. This species is very common in southeastern states and along the coast of California. It appears to be cold intolerant and only persists in temperate regions within kennels and homes. Ticks can be found in cracks and crevices in houses, garages and dog runs. These ticks often crawl up walls in homes and kennels and can be found in false ceilings. Eggs are often laid in cracks and crevices of kennels or homes.

While it is a 3-host tick all life stages prefer to feed on dogs, but nymphs and larvae may also feed on other mammals including rodents and rabbits. This tick species will rarely feed on cats and humans in the U.S. *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* is the vector of *Ehrlichia canis* (Canine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis) and *Babesia canis* (Canine Babesiosis). It is also may be a vector of *Anaplasma platys* (formerly *Ehrlichia platys*) and potentially *Babesia gibsoni*. Recent outbreak of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Arizona was linked to *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*.

Control:

When dwellings or kennels become infested topical on-animal products often do not appear to control the problem. This may be real or perceived; based on pet owners' expectations of product performance and reinfestation rates. When topical spot-ons applied monthly are not controlling the problem the use of fipronil spray applied at 15mg/kg (2 pumps/lb) can be very effective. Your veterinarian may also recommend the more frequent use of topical spot-on type products.

Premises: In kennels, spray acaricides into cracks and crevices, behind and under cages, and along ceiling boards. In homes thoroughly apply as a spot treatment to infested areas such as pet beds and resting quarters, nearby cracks and behind baseboards, window and door frames and localized areas of the floor and floor coverings where these pests may be present.

Acaricides registered (registrations often vary state to state) for use indoors include cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, permethrin, pyrethrins and s-fenvalerate. Prior to treatment, aquariums and fish bowls should be covered and all pets including pet birds and reptiles, removed from the home. Do not permit humans or pets to contact surfaces until the spray has dried. Old bedding should be removed and replaced with clean, fresh bedding after treatment. Do not spray pets with these products.

NOTE: it is my recommendation that when homes are infested with ticks that a licensed professional pest management specialist (exterminator) be contacted to treat the home.

Outdoors around building destroy refuge areas for ticks and tick wildlife hosts. Removing or burning tall grass, brush piles, and weeds between runs and fences and along buildings can kill some ticks outright, allows for sunlight penetration to cause desiccation or remaining ticks and can reduce harborage for wildlife tick hosts. The same compounds also work outdoors. Rarely is broadcast acaricide application necessary in yards.

- Spot treatment along fences, kennels, or shaded areas is preferred.
- For unusually large tick populations, it may be necessary to restrict pet access to the tick-infested environments.
- Effective yard flea and tick sprays from hardware stores
- Bayer Advanced Lawn™ Complete Insect Killer
Imidacloprid 0.72% and Beta-cyfluthrin 0.36%
- Bayer Advanced Garden™ PowerForce® Multi-Insect Killer Ready-To-Spray
Cyfluthrin 0.75%
 - Both come in 32 oz ready to use bottles that cover approximately 5,000sq ft
 - Do not spray the product into fish pools, ponds, streams, or lakes.
 - Remove animal feeding dishes prior to application.
 - Keep children and pets away from treated areas until the spray has dried.
 - Shake well before using.
 - For severe infestations, repeat every 7-14 days as necessary.
 - This product is ready to spray. Just attach this bottle to your hose according to directions. Water automatically mixes with the concentrate as you spray.
 - Also comes as -- Bayer Advanced™ PowerForce® Multi-Insect Killer Ready-to-spread Granules.

Additional information can be found at the following web site. Web site includes links to **meeting proceedings, published papers** and **extension bulletins** on fleas and ticks.

<http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/dmp/personnel/faculty/dryden.htm>