

## WHY WE DON'T LIKE TICKS

Occasionally, our staff at Biscuits & Bath are finding ticks on your dogs. A dog or a person can develop Lyme Disease from the bite of an infected tick. Lyme Disease is caused by a tiny spirochete called *Borrelia Burgdorferi* which is carried by the deer tick. This tick is very small compared to the common dog tick and is easy to miss. Infection requires a tick to be attached for at least 48 hours. The most common clinical signs of Lyme Disease in dogs are fever, loss of appetite, and lameness due to inflammation of the joints. Other systemic signs may include swollen lymph nodes, kidney failure, meningitis, and myocarditis. Lyme Disease is diagnosed by antibody titers. **A high blood titer is only significant if a dog has clinical signs.** False positive titers can be the result of prior infection, prior vaccination, or nonspecific reactivity to other noncausative organisms. Lyme vaccine is routinely administered to high risk dogs in areas of high prevalence. Effective protection against ticks in dogs includes topical products such as Revolution, Frontline, and Preventic collars.

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