



ALPC VDL Special Report:

Tick Season is Coming!

Testing Available at Our Lab

We offer a variety of tests for tick-borne diseases. We currently have a PCR for Ehrlichia and Anaplasma. We also offer a Tick Profile that covers RMSF and *Ehrlichia canis* as well as other blood parasites. The RMSF and Ehrlichia serum FA can also be titered. We offer a canine 4 Way Snap test which covers *E. canis*, *E. ewingii*, heartworm, *Borrelia* (Lyme's disease) and Anaplasma.

Call for pricing.



Warm weather is on its way and with it comes a familiar pest, the tick. Ticks in Arkansas can carry several diseases that can affect your pets and even be life threatening. Ticks can carry *Ehrlichia canis* and *E. ewingii* (Ehrlichiosis) as well as *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Anaplasmosis) and *Rickettsia rickettsii*, also known as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or RMSF.

Clinical signs for these diseases are very similar, they can include fever, loss of appetite, lameness, stiffness, joint swelling and in some cases CNS signs (seizures, circling, head tilt, etc).

If you have found ticks on your pet and you begin to see any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately. Fast diagnosis and proper treatment are necessary to prevent permanent organ damage or even death.

The best cure for these diseases is prevention. If you live in a heavily tick infested area it is important to protect your pets from being infected by using a combination of methods. Treat your animal with an approved product for repelling or killing ticks, your veterinarian can direct you toward the most appropriate products for your pet. Treat your yard with a pet-safe pesticide approved for killing ticks in the environment. Check your pet regularly for attached ticks and quickly and completely remove the entire tick, including the head. There are specialized tools you can purchase or you can use a pair of blunt curved end tweezers.

It should be noted that RMSF can be transmitted to humans through tick bites as well so be sure to check yourself as well as your pet after being in a tick infested area.

There are no vaccines available for these diseases at the present time. The only defense is prevention and quick, effective treatment. These conditions are treatable and if diagnosed early can be cured. There are several effective treatment options your veterinarian can pursue.



Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

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