

I heard dogs can get Lyme disease! How can I prevent Lyme disease in my dog?

You are correct in that dogs can become infected with Lyme disease. This results from a bite from an infected tick which spreads the bacterial infection. Several months after exposure, your dog may show signs such as limping, fatigue, decreased appetite, and fever. Although far less common, a more life-threatening, specific type of kidney disease can also result from the Lyme infection. The good news, you ask? For our dogs, there are several efforts you can take to prevent Lyme disease. First, keep your dog on a high quality, consistent tick preventative. Usually these products are either oral or topical medications that you may obtain from your veterinarian. Second, consider vaccinating your dog against Lyme disease. The vaccination can help prevent infection if a tick would happen to bite your dog, resulting in an additional level of defense. Finally, check your dog for ticks and remove any tick if found. An infected Lyme tick must be attached for 48 hours to spread the disease, therefore early detection and removal can also be vital in prevention. Ultimately, Lyme disease is very prevalent in our area, but through these efforts you can prevent the disease in your pet.

Submitted by: Dr. Stephanie Edwards