



TICKS IN THE FALL



IN THE FALL, TICKS ARE MOSTLY ADULT BLACKLEGGED (DEER) TICKS THAT HAVE GROWN FROM NYMPH TICKS THAT FED ON BLOOD IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER. THE ADULT TICKS ARE MOST ACTIVE IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. IN THE FALL, TICKS ARE ACTIVE AND HIDE IN LEAF LITTER UNTIL THE SUN WARMS THEM UP ENOUGH TO COME OUT. FALLEN LEAVES PROVIDE TICKS WITH A SUITABLE HABITAT BECAUSE THEY RETAIN MOISTURE, WHICH KEEPS THE TICKS FROM DRYING OUT AND ALLOWS THEM TO OVERWINTER. THE LEAF LITTER ALSO PROTECTS TICKS FROM EXPOSURE AND PROVIDES HIGHER HUMIDITY AND LOWER TEMPERATURES.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR DEALING WITH TICKS AND LEAVES IN THE FALL:

- **Be careful when raking leaves**

Ticks may already be in the leaves, so be careful when raking them. Consider creating a tick barrier like gravel or wood chips between wooded areas and your yard.

- **Clear leaf piles**

Ticks like leaves more than long grass, so be diligent about clearing leaf piles when they fall. Take advantage of curbside leaf pickup services offered by your municipality.

- **Trim shrubs and branches**

Trimming low branches and overgrown shrubs can help control deer ticks.

- **Wear tick-repellent clothing**

When going into tick-prone areas, aim to wear long pants tucked into socks, a long-sleeved shirt tucked into pants, and the use of light colored clothing (so crawling ticks are more visible). Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

- **Check for ticks**

After jumping into leaf piles, do a quick tick check, especially on your head, hairline, and behind your ears. If you find a tick on your pet, remove it carefully with tweezers and dispose of it properly. Ensure your pet is up-to-date on their tick preventative.



For more information on ticks during the fall, visit:

www.globallymealliance.org/blog/fall-tick-season-is-in-full-swing-prevention-tips



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