

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

I was slow giving the tick preventative medication to Chip and Lola, our dogs, this spring. Chip came in with two this morning. They were not attached but the dogs now have their preventative treatment.

Ticks are commonly found in many areas throughout Wisconsin and can spread diseases to people and animals by biting them. This following information is taken from www.wisconsin.gov/tick.

Ticks feed on blood by attaching their mouth parts into the skin of a human or animal. During feeding, ticks release saliva that may contain germs.

After you, your family members, or your pets spend time in the woods or areas with tall grass or brush, it is always important to check for ticks, especially in the spring, summer, and early fall.

Ticks are arachnids, related to spiders, mites, and scorpions. In Wisconsin, there are three types of ticks that can spread disease to people and pets.

- The deer (black-legged) tick
- The wood (American dog) tick, and
- The lone star tick.

Nearly all illnesses spread by ticks in Wisconsin are caused by the deer tick. Most people who get sick from a tick bite will do so in the late spring, summer, or early fall, when ticks are most active, and people are outdoors.

Ticks live in wooded areas and areas with tall grass or brush. They do not jump or fly and usually stay close to the ground to find a host to attach themselves to. Ticks find a host by crawling to the edge of a leaf or blade of grass and wait for an animal or person to brush up against them. They then bite and attach to the host for a blood meal.

A warmer and wetter climate can increase the risk of getting an illness from a tick. This is because ticks thrive in warm, humid weather. Warming temperatures in Wisconsin have created favorable conditions for ticks to survive in more areas of the state and have made the active tick season longer.

Ticks must bite you to spread their germs. They also must remain attached to you for at least 24 to 36 hours to spread most germs, including the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. The best way to avoid getting sick from a tick is to prevent them from biting you. There are many ways to prevent tick bites when spending time where ticks may live, including doing daily tick checks, showering within two hours after being outdoors, using insect repellent, and wearing long sleeves and pants to prevent ticks from getting on you.

Consult with your veterinarian about which preventative you should use for your pets.

Dates to Save:

May 25 – Dining with Cats and Dogs – 10:30 to 2 p.m. – Lynn’s Custom Meats and Catering

June 15 – Art For Animals – Flat Creek Lodge – 6 – 9 p.m.