

Tick Season is Here

As Spring approaches, adult ticks start to emerge from the scrub, looking for some juicy animal to attach to. We are facing a bad tick season, because of the regular rain received during autumn and winter. Again this year, we want to prevent as many cases of tick paralysis as possible, thus we are encouraging dog owners to use a **double agent strategy**, the application of Frontline Plus or Advantix every 2 weeks and the wearing of a Preventic collar, replaced every 2 months. We have never seen a dog affected by ticks when this combination has been used as directed.

Cats unfortunately have fewer options for tick prevention - only Frontline spray (used every 3 weeks) is registered for this purpose. We have some other strategies however that can help if your cat is at risk, so give us a call to discuss them if your cat goes outdoors.

Some interesting facts about the paralysis tick:

- Can rapidly climb trees and then are blown on breezes to new territory
- They have at least four different types of sensors to detect hosts, including heat, movement, carbon dioxide in breath, and pheromones
- Ticks may be attracted to some animals more than others, due to their pheromones
- The male ticks bites and feeds from the female, a parasite on a parasite!!
- Ticks have a cardiac and muscle toxin similar to that found in scorpion venom
- They can transmit scrub typhus in humans
- Known to attach to mammals, birds and reptiles
- Cause more than \$10 million in farming stock losses each year
- Poison more than 20,000 dogs and cats each year resulting in over 1,000 deaths

Remember to search your pet daily for ticks from **August to January**, and remove them immediately. If you handle a tick, wash your hands as soon as possible. If you have any questions or you are concerned your pet may be suffering from Tick Paralysis please do not hesitate to contact our friendly staff.

Kind Regards,

Scott & Chris