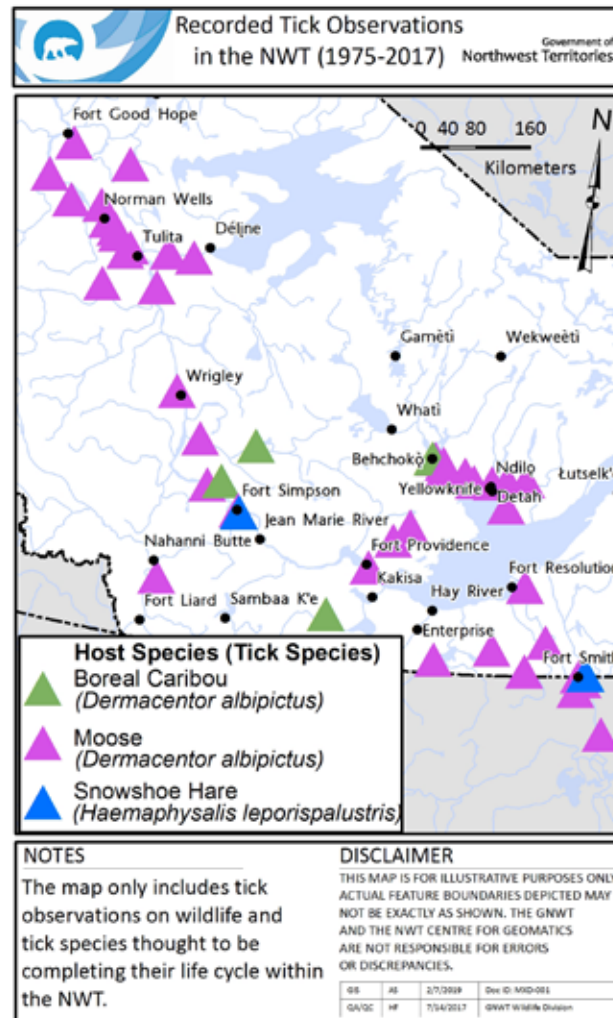


## What should I do if I find a tick on myself, a pet or a wild animal?

- The GNWT is interested in tracking tick detections on animals and humans.
- If you find a tick on yourself, friend or family member, utilize appropriate methods to remove it and contact your health care provider or the Department of Health and Social Services **867-767-9066**.
- If you find a tick on your pet, contact your local veterinarian, or the Wildlife Division of the ENR office **867-767-9237 ext. 53232** or **heather\_fenton@gov.nt.ca**.
- If you find a tick on a wild animal, contact your local ENR Office.



### For more information on ticks and tick-borne diseases, please visit:

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/removing-submitting-ticks-testing.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/removing-submitting-ticks-testing.html)

[www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing\\_a\\_tick.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html)

### For additional information

[www.hss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca) or [www.enr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca)



# TICKS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



GHOST MOOSE WITH A WINTER TICK INFESTATION.  
PHOTO: © MARTIN MALE, MDM PHOTOGRAPHY

# What are ticks?

- Ticks are blood-feeding parasites that live on birds, mammals and reptiles.
- Ticks have eight legs in adult stages and six legs in nymph and larval stages.



WINTER TICK  
DANIEL FITZGERALD, ALBERTA FISH AND WILDLIFE

## What species of ticks have been recorded in the Northwest Territories (NWT)?

- The winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*) has been found on moose and caribou in the southern regions of the NWT (see map).
- Moose with severe infestations with winter tick are called “ghost moose” and can have extensive hair loss.
- Rabbit ticks (*Haemaphysalis leporispalustris*) have been observed on snowshoe hares.
- Moose tick and rabbit tick are most often found on wildlife species, but may rarely be found on people and pets.
- Additional rare observations of tick species are possible. These are likely introduced by migratory birds or by people or pets traveling from other jurisdictions.

## What are the chances of becoming infected with tick-borne agents that can cause disease in the NWT?

- The risk of being bitten by a species of tick that might be carrying pathogens is very, very low in the NWT.

## What is a safe way to remove ticks from yourself or your pet?

- Proper tick removal includes using tweezers and gently dislodging the tick from the skin as close as possible to the site of attachment.

## What precautions should you take if you travel to areas where tick-borne diseases are more common?

- Use tick safety while enjoying the outdoors and discuss preventative measures for your pets with your veterinarian.
- Check yourself and your pet for ticks after being outside.
- Use insect repellent.
- Wear long-sleeves and pants, and tuck your pants into your socks.

## What are tick-associated diseases?

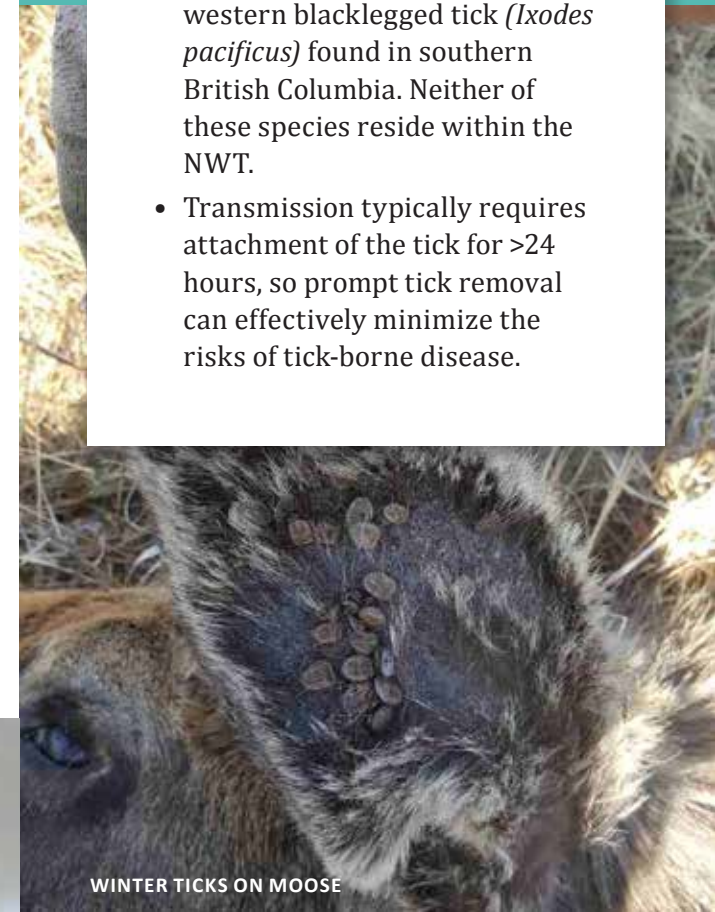
- A number of tick-borne diseases or conditions have been detected in other regions of North America that have not been documented in the NWT.
- Lyme disease is a condition caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Two species of ticks can carry this bacterium: the blacklegged (deer) tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), found in southern Canada and the US, and the western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) found in southern British Columbia. Neither of these species reside within the NWT.
- Transmission typically requires attachment of the tick for >24 hours, so prompt tick removal can effectively minimize the risks of tick-borne disease.



WINTER TICKS ON MOOSE



RABBIT TICK, PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA



WINTER TICKS ON MOOSE