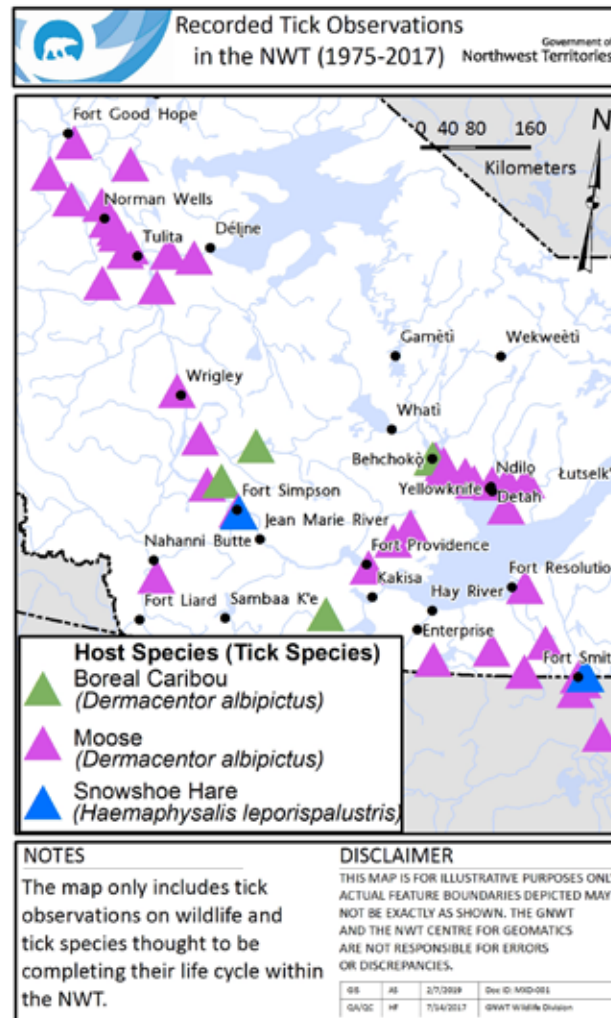


What should I do if I find a tick on myself, a pet or a wild animal?

- 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 **WildlifeVeterinarian@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

www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html

For additional information

www.hss.gov.nt.ca or 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?

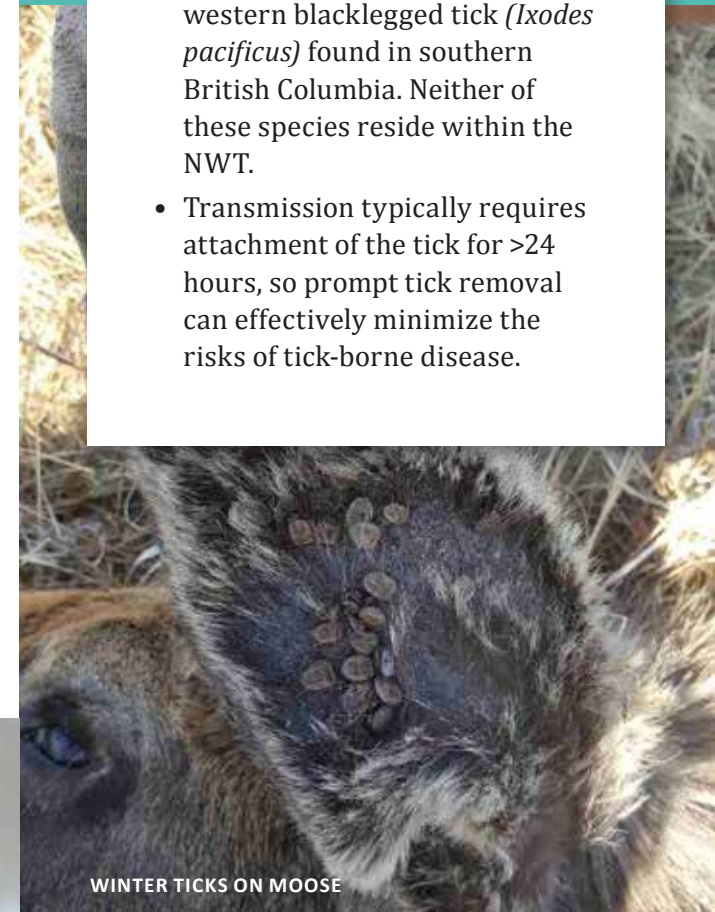
- A number of tick-borne diseases or conditions have been detected in other regions of North America that have not been documented in the NWT.
- Lyme disease is a condition caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Two species of ticks can carry this bacterium: the blacklegged (deer) tick (*Ixodes 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