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Ticks are temporary blood sucking parasites and can attach to dogs and cats when they come into contact with them outside (from grass and in rural woodland areas).

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Infestation is more common in dogs than cats and is highly seasonal. For example, in the UK and Central Europe there are traditionally two peaks - the first from March to June and the second from August to November. However, climate change is tending to extend the seasonal activity.

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Causing a range of tick-borne diseases (TBDs), ticks are of most importance as vectors of disease which affect pets and sometimes owners. Apart from feeding on blood (which in a heavy infestation could lead to anaemia especially in young animals), ticks can transmit bacteria, viruses and other parasitic infections.

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Keep your eyes peeled! Popular places for ticks to hide are on and in the ears, between toes and in axillae, inguinal and perianal regions. Regularly examine your pet's coat thoroughly and if a tick is found then it can be most reliably removed using a proprietary tick removal device and disposed of in a sealed plastic bag.

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Speak to your vet for advice about controlling tick infestations, including the various anti-parasitic agents available to prevent tick infestation and the protocol best suited to your pet. Effective tick control can help prevent discomfort and disease in your pets.



ESCCAP is a not-for-profit organisation comprising a group of veterinary experts from across Europe. The group is dedicated towards giving vets and pet owners the best possible information available to help eradicate pet parasite infestations.

ESCCAP UK is a national association which brings together some of the UK's leading experts in the field of veterinary parasitology. ESCCAP UK provides vets and pet owners with UK relevant information to help protect against pet parasites.

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