

# Puppy Love

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## The beautiful, majestic white tailed deer...



is one of the most gentle and beautiful creatures we share our planet with, but they also play a vital role in the life cycle of the deer tick. They provide the host for the deer tick mating cycle and enable the vermin to be more easily dispersed geographically as the white tail deer wander through out the forested areas they inhabit.

Deer ticks are the carrier of a bacterial disease commonly identified as Lyme disease and they infect a host by piercing the skin and drawing the blood of its victim for nourishment. The deer tick goes through four developmental stages, feasting on small mammals until it ultimately ends up on a white tailed deer. A deer tick can infect its victim at any stage of development.

Bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* is the pathogen that can cause Lyme disease in our little doxies (and other dogs and people, too) and is the most common tick-transmitted diseases in the United States.

All deer ticks are small, immature deer ticks are smaller than the head of a pin which frequently enables them to go unnoticed.

Symptom in dogs can be difficult to detect because they typically don't appear until several months after the infection. Diagnosis is further complicated because the symptoms come and go and they mimic other troublesome health conditions.

## Symptoms & Complications of Lyme Tick Disease



- stiff walk with arched back
- lameness (recurrent, switching legs)
- sensitive to touch
- difficulty breathing
- fever, depression, fatigue
- lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss
- inflammation of the joints
- swelling in the bite area
- heart abnormalities (rare)
- nervous system complications (rare)
- increased urination and thirst
- fluid buildup in the abdomen, tissue, and legs
- kidney failure (if untreated)



"God will prepare everything for our perfect happiness in heaven, and if it takes my dog being there, I believe he'll be there."

Billy Graham