



# Ticks and Lyme Disease in Ontario: What's the real risk?

## My dog has a tick - Will it get Lyme disease?



Risk Areas for *Ixodes scapularis* in Ontario



### Is it the right kind of tick?

- *Ixodes scapularis* is the only vector of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in Ontario



### Is the *I. scapularis* tick carrying *B. burgdorferi*?

- Varies by region, but overall in Ontario:
  - ~85% are negative
  - ~15% are positive\*



### Was the positive tick attached for long enough to expose my dog to *B. burgdorferi*?

- < 24 hours - negligible risk
- 24-48 hours - questionable risk
- > 48 hours - significant risk



### If my dog is exposed, will it test positive for antibodies?

- Most dogs will but not for at least 3-5 weeks



### If my dog is exposed, will it get sick?

- 95% of dogs will not get sick

\*Nelder et al. PLoS ONE 2014.

Only **5%** of dogs

- Bitten by the right kind of tick
- Carrying the right bacterium
- Attached for the right amount of time



**WILL DEVELOP ANY SIGNS OF LYME DISEASE**

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