

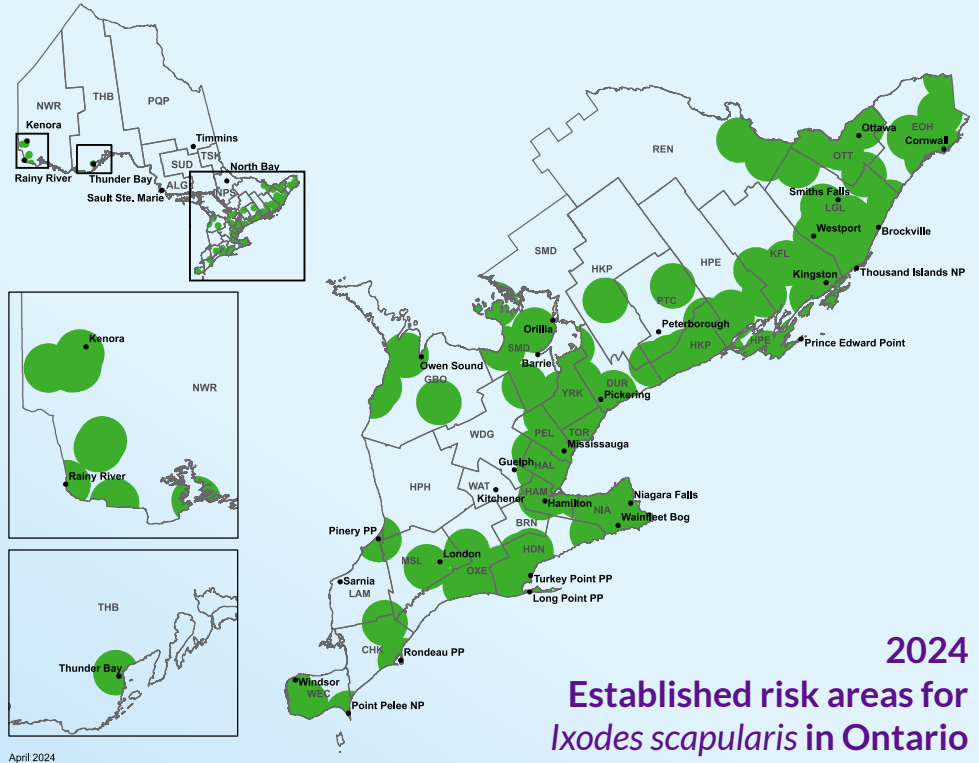


Veterinary N2K (need-to-know):

Ticks and Lyme Disease in Ontario

Know **WHERE** the risk areas are

- *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Bb) prevalence in blacklegged ticks tends to increase over time
- Dogs that live in or visit endemic areas are at higher risk



2024
Established risk areas for
Ixodes scapularis in Ontario

CHECK dogs for ticks daily

- *Ixodes scapularis* must be attached for 36-48 hours to transmit Bb



Use tick **CONTROL** products for dogs

- During all months when ticks are active (varies by region)
- Tick control is essential even if vaccinated against Bb



Consider **SCREENING** dogs

- Test for antibodies every 12 months
- Check seropositive dogs for proteinuria every 4-6 months (dipstick)
 - Occurs in <2% of seropositive dogs
 - If proteinuric, rule out other causes first



WATCH for clinical signs in at-risk dogs

- Fever, anorexia, polyarthritis, shifting lameness, lymphadenomegaly
- Nephritis is *much less common* than arthritis, but may occur without other signs



Know when **NOT TO TREAT**

- Don't treat clinically normal dogs, even if seropositive or recent tick exposure
- For seropositive dogs **WITH** clinical signs:
 - Treatment of choice is doxycycline
 - Signs should respond rapidly, if not then REASSESS



REMEMBER

- Only 5-10% of infected dogs will develop any signs of Lyme disease
- Seroconversion occurs 3-5 weeks after infection and can last for years
- Dog exposure = potential risk of owner exposure



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Littman et al. ACVIM consensus update on Lyme borreliosis in dogs and cats. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2018;32:887- 903. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.15085>
- Canadian Pets and Tick Resources. <https://aeroh.uoguelph.ca/resources/pets-and-ticks>
- Parasite prevalence maps. CAPC. <https://capcvet.org/maps/#/2024/all-year/lyme-disease/dog/canada/ontario>