

TICKS IN ALASKA

Ticks are common in many parts of the world, including Alaska. However -

several new tick species have been found in Alaska. Many of these new tick species bite humans and domestic and wild animals and are capable of transmitting diseases.

What are we doing to monitor ticks in Alaska?

The University of Alaska is working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Office of the State Veterinarian to monitor ticks and tick-borne diseases in Alaska. Monitoring provides information about the risk of tick exposure in Alaska and helps identify where in the state ticks are present.

Anyone can contribute to ongoing efforts by submitting found ticks through the **Alaska Submit-A-Tick** program.

For more information, visit:
<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/ticks>

☒ **TICK-all-the-boxes**

☐ Learn how to identify ticks and how to search for them on yourself, your pet, and wildlife.

☐ **Traveling with your pet?** Talk to your vet about whether you should consider using flea or tick prevention. And remember to check your pet for ticks before returning home.

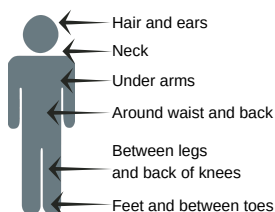
☐ Take appropriate precautions when traveling outside of Alaska: know where to expect ticks; take steps to avoid contact with ticks; treat clothing and gear; and use EPA-registered insect repellents.

SAFE TICK REMOVAL



- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Avoid twisting or jerking the tick.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, or soap and water.
- Place the tick in a clean sealed bag or container, and submit it through the Alaska Submit-A-Tick Program.

CHECK FOR TICKS



Find a tick? Submit it!

Reverse for details



SUBMITTING A TICK

1. Put the tick in a clean, small container (e.g. vial or small pill bottle).
2. Download and fill out the Submit-A-Tick form from <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/ticks>
3. Place the container and completed form in an envelope or small box for mailing.
4. Mail to the Office of the State Veterinarian:

**5251 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue,
Anchorage, AK 99507**

Or drop off tick and submission form at your local ADFG office

How else can you contribute?

Local observations can help track environmental factors that influence tick and tick-borne pathogens. The Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network is an organization of local observers and topic experts who share information about unusual animal, environment, and weather events. Participants can share observations and raise awareness about environmental changes.

Ticks and their hosts are greatly influenced by climate and other drivers of change. Timely reporting of environmental events, such as spotting a mule deer in the Interior (which can host ticks) or a moose with hair loss, can help support ongoing research.

How to submit an observation to the LEO Network

- Go to leonetwork.org **or** download the LEO Reporter App (available for iPhone)
- Join the LEO Network and set up a personal profile
- Click the 'Submit Observation' button



Left photo:
Dead hare
infested with ticks
found in Fort
Yukon, Alaska



Right photo:
Moose with hair
loss, which could
be a result of an
infestation of
ticks.

