

CALLING ALL CITIZEN SCIENTISTS!

Please Join the Great Arizona Tick Check

Ticks are small, blood-sucking animals related to spiders. Like mosquitoes, ticks can transmit diseases to the animals they bite, including humans.

In Arizona and across the United States, different tick species are being found in new locations, and the number of people falling sick in some areas is **increasing**. The most common tick in Arizona is the Brown Dog Tick which can spread Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a serious illness marked by fever and rash. Historical records show other tick species and tickborne diseases may also be present in Arizona, but more information is needed for us to reduce the risk of illness. Please join the Great Arizona Tick Check to create an accurate map of tick species and possible diseases in every county in the state. This information will help county and tribal health departments, physicians and veterinarians anticipate, recognize and treat tick-borne diseases effectively.



Brown dog tick

The Great Arizona Tick Check is a partnership between Arizona Department of Health Services, the University of Arizona, county and tribal health departments, veterinary clinics, animal shelters and interested citizens throughout the state. To participate, please send any ticks you find in your home, on yourself, family members, pets, livestock, wildlife or even just out in the environment to the University of Arizona for identification and testing (see instructions below).

These are ticks.



Hard ticks have four life stages: egg, six-legged larva, eight-legged nymph, and adult. At each stage, the tick must feed on blood from an animal host. You are most likely to find nymph or adult ticks, as they are bigger and feed for longer. Adult female ticks swell up enormously as they feed for days on the host.

For more information about ticks, watch this video (insert link)