

How to participate in the Great Arizona Tick Check

FIND THE TICKS!

In Arizona, ticks are hard to find. The best way to look for ticks is to look on their animal hosts. The most common tick in Arizona is the brown dog tick, so if you have a dog, you have a living tick trap. Below is a link to a great video showing you how to check your dog for ticks. You can also check livestock such as horses, cows or sheep for ticks. [How to Find Ticks - YouTube](#)

REMOVE THE TICKS!

The tick should be removed with tweezers, if available. If ticks are removed using bare hands, avoid squashing the ticks between fingers. The tick should be grasped close to the skin and gently pulled off. Try to avoid breaking the tick. After the tick is removed, the tick bite wound should be washed with soap and water. The tweezers and hands of the person removing the tick should also be thoroughly cleaned.

SEND US YOUR TICKS!

Once the tick is removed, it can be sealed in a zip-seal bag or small container. Then write down the following information on a sheet of paper to send with the tick:

Date Collected:

Location: City, county or zip code is sufficient, but you may include the address if you chose.

Travel History of host in last two weeks: if the human or other host animal was in a different county or state within the past two weeks, please include that information.

Host: Human, dog, cat, etc. If the tick was found in the environment not feeding, you can write 'free-living' and where you found the tick (e.g., inside home, in grass, on side of a building, etc.)

Your contact information (optional): If you would like us to contact you with the tick identification, please include your name and email address, cell phone or mailing address. We will also test the tick for disease, but those results may take longer than initial identification.

PLEASE do not wait for test results from us if the person or animal bitten by the tick gets a fever or rash. Take the sick person/animal to the doctor or vet and mention the tick bite.

Place the tick collection information as well as the bagged tick inside another sealed plastic bag. We recommend but do not require that you place the double-bagged tick in a freezer for one to two days to kill it prior to mailing it to this address:

Dr. Kathleen Walker
Forbes 410, Dept. of Entomology
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721