

Lyme disease is a tick-transmitted disease that can affect both pets and humans. It's caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted to animals through the bite of infected black-legged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks.

Lyme disease can present a range of symptoms in pets, which may appear weeks after infection. The most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Lethargy
- Joint swelling, discomfort, or pain (Your pet may show signs of shifting leg lameness or reluctance to move.)
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen lymph nodes.

It's important to note that symptoms can be transient and may appear cyclically. Some pets can be asymptomatic, showing no visible signs of the disease despite being infected.

If you suspect your pet has been exposed to tick-infested areas or shows any of the symptoms mentioned, please contact us immediately. Diagnosis typically involves a combination of blood tests, history, and clinical signs. If Lyme disease is confirmed, treatment usually consists of a course of antibiotics, which can be highly effective, especially when started early. Additional supportive care may be recommended depending on the severity of the symptoms.

Preventing Lyme disease centers around tick prevention and landscape management to reduce tick exposure. Here are some crucial prevention tips:

- Use tick preventatives: There are various effective options available, including topical treatments, oral medications, and tick collars. Please consult with us for recommendations tailored to your pet's needs and lifestyle.
- Perform regular tick checks: After spending time outdoors, especially in wooded or grassy areas, check both yourself and your pet for ticks.
- Keep your yard tidy: Mow the lawn regularly, remove leaf litter, and clear tall grasses and brush around your home and the edge of lawns to reduce tick habitats.
- Consider vaccinating your pet against Lyme disease: This is especially recommended for pets living in or frequently visiting areas where Lyme disease is common, such as here in the beautiful U.P.

Combining vaccination with regular use of tick preventatives offers the best defense against Lyme disease. The health and happiness of your pet are of the utmost importance to us. If you have any questions about Lyme disease, tick prevention strategies, or to

schedule an appointment for Lyme disease vaccination or testing, please don't hesitate to contact us.