

# Lyme Disease and your dog



## What you need to know...

Canine Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted by the bite of an infected black-legged (Deer) tick harboring the *Borrelia burgdorferi* spirochete, a corkscrew-shaped bacterium.

## The facts:

### Assess your dog's risk factors:

- ◆ Your dog **LIVES** in an area endemic for Lyme disease
- ◆ Your dog **TRAVELS** to an area endemic for Lyme disease
- ◆ Your dog lives in a suburban area next to a wildlife area
- ◆ Your dog's yard is surrounded by tall brush
- ◆ You take your dog walking, hiking, picnicking, camping or fishing in wooded areas
- ◆ Your dog frequents areas with many deer or wild turkeys

- Lyme disease is now endemic on the north shores of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. Specifically, these locations include: Long Point Provincial Park, Turkey Point Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Point Pelee National Park, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area, and in the St. Lawrence Islands National Park area.

- Nearly 75 percent of unvaccinated dogs in endemic areas will eventually test positive, and each year some will develop Lyme disease.

- If you find a tick attached to your dog, call your veterinarian. Canine Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics, particularly if caught early. Your veterinarian will determine the best course of care.

- Canine Lyme disease is largely preventable by vaccination, and by using tick control and frequent tick checks. Remember that deer ticks are small and hard to find in a dog's coat.

- **If you suspect your dog might be at risk, ask your veterinarian about options for vaccinating your dog for Lyme disease.**

