

One Health commentary...

One Health and Tickborne Diseases

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Most of the country (USA) experienced a relatively mild winter this year. This combined with wet weather provides ideal conditions for ticks to thrive. Large tick populations increase the chances of people and pets becoming infected with tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis. Salivary toxins of imbedded ticks may also result in Tick Paralysis for both people and pets.

State public health departments track tick-borne infectious disease in humans and provide epidemiologic profiles of reported data. Veterinary clinicians can provide pet owners with tick preventatives for pets and failing that, offer blood testing for several tick-borne diseases. We encourage veterinarians to report positive results to their local public health departments to provide sentinel information that may prevent human disease.

The Wall Street Journal article, "This Season's Ticking Bomb" (http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303404704577305630267988716.html?mod=dist_smartbrief) provides a summary of tick-borne disease as a One Health issue that requires a collaborative approach to mitigate.

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