

Tick Facts

Image* of tick preserved in amber from 66 million years ago

Ticks Roamed with the Dinosaurs

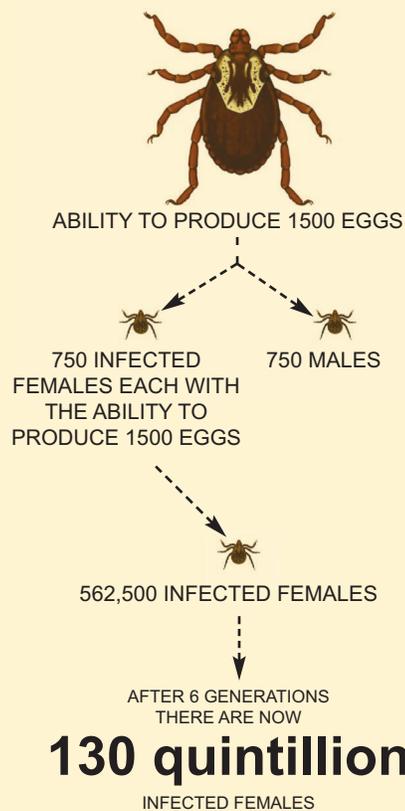
Ticks have a long history of survival dating back to the Cretaceous period, which dates from 66 million to 144 million years ago. In the geologic timetable, it follows the Jurassic period. There was a relatively warm climate and dinosaurs dominated on land. Ticks were there—they appear in amber as fossil hard ticks. They have features found on hard ticks alive today.

Nearly 900 species of ticks span the globe. More than 90 species occur in the continental U.S. About 80 of these are in the family *Ixodidae*, known as “hard ticks,” and about 10 species are in the family *Argasidae*, known as “soft ticks.”

Ticks carry diseases (often they are co-infected with more than one) that they can transmit to humans through a bite. In a 2010 report on the dangers of ticks, the Institute of Medicine described them as, “The Swiss Army knife of disease vectors.”

While most tick-borne diseases occur in the warmer months, they can occur ANY time of the year. Thanks to modern medicine, recovery is more common than it was before the development of antibiotics.

INFECTED FEMALE AMERICAN DOG TICK



Ticks Are Amazing in Their Theoretical Reproductive Capacity

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is transmitted from mother to daughter for up to six generations...which translates to millions of infected ticks...all looking for their next meal. This won't happen in nature because, not all will survive, BUT there are still *many* ticks infected from birth.

Source: Wes Watson, Ph.D. NC State University.

photo manipulated*

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