

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Mike DeFina, Media Relations Manager

(617) 293-3530

mdefin@arlboston.org

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ARL Reminds Pet Owners to Brace for Unprecedented Tick Season

Mild winters have led to year-round potential for tick-borne illnesses

While many embrace the mild winter New England has experienced this year, one of the downsides to a winter filled with above-average temperatures is an explosion in the tick population in Massachusetts.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is reminding pet owners to be aware that tick-borne illnesses are no longer just a summer-time concern, and to take steps now to better protect both you and your pets when venturing outside.

ARL Vice-President of Veterinary Services Dr. Nicole Breda will be made available to members of the media to further discuss this important topic and to offer tips for pet owners:

Media Availability:

When: Thursday, April 6, 3-4 p.m.

Where: ARL's Dedham Animal Care and Adoption Center, 55 Anna's Place (Top of the hill), Dedham

With ticks seemingly everywhere outdoors, consider the following to help protect your pet:

- 1. Put your pet on a tick preventative -- Speak with your veterinarian to determine the best tick preventative to use.**
- 2. Consider vaccination — Speak with your veterinarian about the Lyme disease vaccine.**

- 3. Avoid outdoor areas where ticks are known to inhabit -- After spending time outdoors, whether in the backyard or after a hike, check both yourself and your pet for ticks. For dogs, pay particular attention to their ears, eyelids, between toes, genital area and around the collar.**
- 4. Maintain your yard – Keep the lawn mowed and shrubbery trimmed around your home.**

If your pet has been bitten by a tick, it needs to be removed immediately! Using tweezers, grasp the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible. Remove the tick in a slow, steady, and straight motion – don't jerk as anything left behind could cause an infection. Treat the bite wound with antiseptic and monitor the site over the next few days for localized skin infection.

Some signs your dog has been infected by a tick-borne disease include fever, loss of appetite, acute lameness, and swelling in the joints, among others. A blood test can determine if your dog has been exposed to a tick-borne disease and follow up tests or an antibiotic may be recommended.

Given that tick-borne diseases can trigger chronic health issues, it is also vital to follow recommendations for ongoing follow-up care after diagnosis and treatment.

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2022, ARL served 20,601 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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