

## Brown Dog Tick



Unengorged female on leaf (James Gathany, Center for Disease Control and Prevention).



Engorged female on dog.



Engorged female with eggs (M.D. Bazan/BugGuide).

**Typical Location When Observed:** Brown dog tick infests buildings harboring dogs. They tend to crawl upward and often are found behind ceiling moldings or in other cracks and crevices in the ceiling. These ticks also hide behind curtains, in furniture, and under rugs.

**Importance/Damage:** Brown dog ticks are an irritation to dogs, but are not known to transmit any diseases. They generally do not feed on humans.

**Distinguishing Features:** Brown dog ticks are reddish brown in color. The connection between the head to the body is hexagonal in shape. An adult female is about 3/16 inches in length

**Look-Alikes:** American dog tick, Rocky Mountain wood tick

**General Life History and Habits:** The female feeds on the dog for about a week and then drops off to lay up to 5,000 eggs. Tick larvae hatch within a few weeks and find a host, preferably a dog, to feed on for a week or less. Larvae leave the host to develop into nymphs over the next two weeks. Nymphs feed on the host for a week or so and then drop off to develop into adults. The life cycle is completed in about two months, however, each stage can survive three to five months without feeding.

**Resources:** More detail about brown dog ticks are found in Extension Fact Sheet 5.593, *Colorado Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases*.

**Scientific Name:** *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Acari (mites and ticks)

**Family:** Ixodidae (hard ticks)



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