

Pest Profile



Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Brown Dog Tick

Scientific Name: *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*

Order and Family: Acari: Ixodidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are small with reddish-brown coloration and lack any distinguishing marks. The dog tick is usually identified by its shape, which is hexagonal. Nymphs are similar in color and appearance to their adult counterparts. Their namesake comes from the fact they are commonly found on dogs.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	Dark brown, small eggs are laid in clusters ranging from 2 to 3000.
Larva/Nymph	1 st Instar- 1 mm 2 nd Instar- 2 mm 3 rd Instar- 3 mm	1 st Instar- 6 legs, small, brownish-red 2 nd Instar- Globular, blue 3 rd Instar (and subsequent) 8 legs, roundish body, reddish-brown in color.
Adult	Unengorged females and males- 3 mm long Engorged Females- up to 12 mm	Flattened body, red/brown color that darkens when engorged.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking

Host /stored food products: *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* typically prefer dogs as a host but are known to take blood meals from other mammals.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Nymphs require a blood meal in order to progress to adulthood. However, they can live without a meal for up to eight months. They use their arachnid mouthparts to attach to a host and then drain blood until engorged. Once engorged, ticks mate, lay eggs, and repeat the cycle. Brown dog ticks are unique in that they are the only tick who can complete their cycle indoors. Infestations of buildings with the tick can occur due to that fact.

References:

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