



# Before you remove that tick!



**DON'T** try burning out the tick with a lit match or other heat source.

**DON'T** try suffocating or irritating the tick with fingernail polish or petroleum jelly.

**DON'T** crush, twist or jerk the tick out of the skin. That's a fast way to expose your pet to more pathogens and cause the mouthparts to break off—that's another no-no.



**DO** wear rubber gloves. You don't want to catch what might be in that tick's blood

**DO** use tweezers. FYI: Your vet does a great job with forceps.

**DO** grasp the tick as close as possible to the skin.

**DO** use a slow, steady, rearward pressure.

**DO** clean the skin with soap and water after removing the tick.

**DO** get rid of the tick by placing it in alcohol or flushing it down the toilet. Or you may keep the tick in a sealed container and take it to your veterinarian to identify or to send for further testing.

Want to learn more about how ticks affect your pets' and your family's health? Visit [petsandparasites.org/dog-owners/ticks](https://petsandparasites.org/dog-owners/ticks).