



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving  
the nation's health

# Travelling with or importing dogs?

## Important information you need to know about ticks

Your dog may come into the UK with the brown dog tick which can transmit diseases to humans and animals. Unlike ticks in the UK, this species can also live indoors and infest houses.



The brown dog tick  
(*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)

Many dogs will travel without acquiring ticks but for those that do, you can help protect the health of your dog and yourself by:

- seeking advice about ticks from your vet prior to travelling with or importing dogs
- remaining vigilant by checking your dog and their bedding, yourself and your home for ticks once returning to the UK
- removing ticks found feeding on your dogs or yourself promptly and in a safe way using a tick removal tool or pointed tweezers
- contacting your veterinarian if your dog becomes unwell or your GP if you notice that you have been bitten by a tick or start to feel unwell
- seeking tick identification and pest control when necessary, should you suspect you have a tick infestation in your home

We are asking members of the public and veterinarians to remain vigilant for imported ticks on recently travelled or imported dogs. It would greatly enhance our understanding of tick importation risk if members of the public and veterinarians could **submit specimens to the PHE Tick Recording Scheme for identification.**

For more information contact [Tick@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Tick@phe.gov.uk) or visit [www.gov.uk/tick-recording-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/tick-recording-scheme)