



MORUYA
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

86-88 Queen St Moruya NSW 2537 Ph: 02 44742532



BE TICK AWARE

PARALYSIS TICK

we live in a high risk area

The paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*) occurs on the eastern coastal parts of Australia. Normal hosts include bandicoots, possums, kangaroos and wallabies. These native fauna appear to be relatively resistant to the toxins produced by paralysis ticks and often carry heavy burdens of ticks. Dogs, cats and humans are accidental hosts and are more vulnerable to the paralysis tick toxin.

Ticks are more numerous in the moderately warm and humid months of the year (Spring and Autumn), however, we have seen tick cases in the hospital every week of the year. Tick prevention should ideally be used all year round.

MVH PRODUCT REVIEWS

1. NEXGARD

Our top pick for dogs - Easy to use and very effective: Nexgard is a tasty chew that protects your dog from fleas and ticks for a full month. Fully effective within 2 - 6 hours. Dogs can swim and be washed.

2. ADVANTIX

For dogs only. A combination of Advantage (flea) and a pyrethrin in a spot-on formulation. Must be applied every 2 weeks for tick control. Water resistant (not detergent/soap resistant). Added benefit of acting as a tick, mosquito and sandfly repellent (toxic to cats).

3. FRONTLINE SPRAY

Very effective for dogs and cats, relatively non toxic. Must be applied according to instructions every 3 weeks.

4. FRONTLINE TOPSPOT

This must be applied every 10-12 days to be effective against ticks. Water resistant (not soap/detergent resistant).

5. INSECTICIDE WASHES eg Asuntol or Permaxin

May be an option for people who don't mind bathing their dogs weekly or more. Not as effective as

options mentioned above. Unsuitable for dogs that swim frequently.

6. TICK COLLARS

These must be specifically directed at paralysis ticks. Most do not do the job on their own. Some can be very smelly. Not ideal to use if children spend a fair amount of time with the dog. Scalibor is our top pick of the collars as it lasts 3 months and is not smelly - BUT does take 2 weeks to be totally effective.

The most effective form of prevention is regular examination. No matter which chemical you use, **nothing replaces a thorough tick search.**

Ticks can be **anywhere** on the body, but are more usually found from the front legs forward (the ruff around the neck, the face and on or in the ears).

PREVENTION IS MUCH BETTER THAN CURE. Treatment can be expensive, and some pets do not respond and may die despite the most vigorous treatment. We recommend Pet Insurance, this takes the worry out of an already traumatic situation.

If a tick is found on your pet remove it as soon as possible. A tick twister is the quickest, easiest and most pain-free method of removal (available at MVH) or you may apply frontline or permoxin directly to the tick and remove when dead. Alternatively, you may bring your dog into the surgery and we'll remove it for you.

If your pet is showing signs of tick paralysis, it needs IMMEDIATE urgent veterinary treatment. Keep the animal calm, cool and get it to the surgery as soon as possible. **Do not give anything to eat or drink.**

SIGNS OF TICK PARALYSIS

The earlier treatment is started the better the prognosis.

The adult tick injects saliva containing neurotoxins into the host as it feeds. Clinical signs are usually observed three (3) to seven (7) days after attachment of the tick - this period may be prolonged up to two weeks in cool weather. In some dogs, clinical signs may not be seen until all ticks have engorged and dropped off.

***** The tick has dropped off or been removed: **DOES NOT** mean the animal will improve, there is still toxin in the animals body that will cause symptoms to progress.

Your animal may show several or only one of these symptoms.

- An unwillingness to jump into the car or onto the lounge.
- An alteration in the quality of the dogs' bark.
- A slight cough, throat clearing or gagging
- Vomiting - often looks like white froth
- The pupils of both eyes become widely dilated and eventually fail to respond to light.
- Wobbliness of the hindquarters, which rapidly worsens - after a few hours the dog is unable to stand.
- Respiration becomes slow and laboured and a grunting respiratory noise is often present.

**UNTREATED DOGS AND CATS USUALLY DIE WITHIN
TWENTY FOUR (24) TO FORTY EIGHT (48) HOURS**

OF THE ONSET OF OBVIOUS SIGNS.

**Early treatment is necessary. If you suspect your animal is suffering from tick paralysis
Please call us.**

Ph: 02 44742 532



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A/h emergency 0408 429 681