

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevent Lyme Disease in Pets

NAPPS Offers Pet Parents Tips for Keeping Their Furry Friends Safe from Ticks

Mount Laurel, N.J.—June 18, 2013—The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is urging pet parents to take the proper precautions to help protect their furry friends from the dangers of Lyme disease.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread through the bite of slow-feeding, hard-shelled deer ticks. *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria responsible for the disease, causes infections in both humans and animals.

Although ticks are active year round in temperatures above 40 degrees, the CDC reports that the most Lyme infections occur during the months of June, July and August.

According to these reports, the following states are considered “high risk” areas, making up 95% of the reported cases:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Wisconsin

The CDC offers the following list of symptoms to help pet parents determine if their furry friend has been infected by Lyme disease:

- Sensitivity to touch
- Fever
- Lack of appetite
- Difficulty breathing
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Inflammation of joints or stiff walking with an arched back

“Pet parents must be aware of Lyme disease and thoroughly check their pets for ticks, especially during warmer months and after spending time outdoors,” said Sherry L. Suhosky, president of NAPPS. “Frequently checking pets for ticks can help to reduce the risk of Lyme infection.”

NAPPS urges pet parents to routinely check pets for ticks by following these steps:

- Use your fingers to run through your pet's fur or hair - work fingers down to the skin while you feel and rub slowly. A small bump may be a tick trying to hide.
- Take extra care to examine each area of your pet's body after a walk in the woods, grassy areas or in other humid areas where ticks thrive.
- Be sure to spread your pet's toes to check the area between each toe - this is a common area for ticks to hide.
- Feel all around your pet's head, starting with the mouth or muzzle area. Dogs especially can pick up nose ticks on a walk because of sniffing.
- Fold back ears to see inside the ear opening and use fingers to feel gently around this area. Lots of fur or different skin colors could disguise a hiding tick.
- Give your pet a bath regularly.
- Watch pets that shake their ears, scratch oddly, bite themselves or are restless.

NAPPS encourages pet parents to familiarize themselves with the preventative tips offered by the CDC; understanding the harmful effects of Lyme disease and methods for preventing the infection are the first steps in protecting your four-legged loved one.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

###

Media Contact:

Caitlin Watterson
Communications Coordinator
856-642-4218
cwatterson@ahint.com