Life cycle of Ticks

Ticks will have a once to two year life cycle. For example, furred species, the deer tick, has a two year life cycle, during which time it passes through three stages: larva, nymph, and adult. The tick must take a blood meal at each stage before maturing to the next.

WHERE FOUND:
- Fields and other grass and shrub-dominated habitats
- Widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains and limited areas in the Pacific Coast

GENERAL INFORMATION:
- Larvae are the feeding stage that feeds on a wide variety of hosts
- Nymphs and adult females are most likely to bite humans
- Adult ticks are primarily associated with large mammals
- Larvae and nymphs feed on small mammals and birds

TRANSMITS:
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever (Rickettsia rickettsii)
- Tularaemia (Francisella tularensis)
- Tickborne relapsing fever (Borrelia burgdorferi, Borrelia mayonii)
- Anaemia (Anaplasma phagocytophilum)
- Anaplasmosis (Anaplasma phagocytophilum)
- Babesiosis (Babesia microti)
- Ehrlichiosis (Ehrlichia chaffeensis, Ehrlichia ewingii)
- Powassan encephalitis (Powassan virus)
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- Blacklegged tick - both are active during the summer months
- Adult ticks are active in fall, winter, and early spring and prefer larger hosts
- Larvae and nymphs are active in the spring and summer and feed mostly on small animals, but will feed on humans
- Nymphs are responsible for the majority of Rocky Mountain spotted fever cases

WHERE FOUND:
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever - widespread in the southern United States and Southwestern Canada
- Tickborne relapsing fever - semi-arid and mountainous areas, at elevations of 4,000 to 10,000 feet

WHERE FOUND:
- Open prairie, scrubland, and grass-dominated habitats
- Along the Gulf Coast and beyond, this tick is expanding its range and now becoming more common in the Mid-Atlantic

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- Forests, fields, brushy areas, areas with leaf litter, and "edge" habitats

WHERE FOUND:
- Deeply infested with the agent of Tidewater spotted fever, there is often a characteristic scab (eschar) that looks like a cigarette burn at the bite site
- Generally, only adult ticks bite humans
- This species is a common pest of livestock throughout its range
- Ticks can result in a painful, itchy and irritating welt, regardless of infection status
- The adult female is easily recognized because of the white spot in the middle of the back
- Small nymph life stage can be easily confused with small nymph blacklegged ticks – both are active during the summer months
- Implicated to cause red meat (alpha-gal) allergy

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WHERE FOUND:
- Adult ticks fed primarily on large mammals
- Larvae and nymphs fed on small rodents
- Adult ticks are primarily associated with pathogen transmission to humans

WHERE FOUND:
- Rocky Mountain States and Southwestern Canada
- Semi-arid and mountainous areas, at elevations of 4,000 to 10,000 feet

WHERE FOUND:
- Wooded habitats with leaf litter
- Throughout California and Western states along the coast and inland

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