

DOGS & TICKS

Ticks are common from spring to autumn. They live in grass, shrubs, and woodland — especially in places where deer or livestock pass.

What do ticks look like?

Ticks are small, dark, spider-like parasites. At first they are flat and tiny, like a sesame seed. When attached to your dog's skin, they swell as they feed and can resemble a grey or brown wart.

We have included some tick removers in your dog kit.

How to remove a tick (with the tick hook):

1. Locate the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible.
2. Slide the tick puller under the tick, between the tick and the skin.
3. Twist slowly in one direction — do not pull.
4. The tick will release itself.
5. Do not crush the tick or burn it. Do not use fingers, tweezers, oil or alcohol.
6. Clean the area with antiseptic and wash your hands.

If the tick doesn't come out fully or if the skin becomes red or swollen, monitor your dog and contact a vet if needed.

DOGS & SNAKES

Snakes are most commonly found in long grass, wetlands, and around lakes in this region. They may also rest on sun-warmed rocks or footpaths. The most likely species is the European adder (*Vipera berus*), which is venomous. Although bites are rare, they can be dangerous for dogs — particularly small or young ones.

To reduce the risk:

- Keep dogs on a lead in long grass, reeds, and around lake edges
- Avoid letting dogs poke noses into holes, under rocks, or into dense vegetation
- Be especially careful in warm, sunny weather when snakes are more active

Signs of a bite may include sudden swelling (usually on the face or leg), pain, limping, panting, weakness, or collapse. The bite may have visible puncture marks.

What to do:

- Stay calm and carry your dog if possible to limit movement
- Do **not** attempt to suck out venom, apply a tourniquet, or ice
- Take your dog to a vet as soon as possible — early treatment is critical