



## For more information

- Visit [pethealthnetwork.com/dogsandticks](http://pethealthnetwork.com/dogsandticks) to learn more about Lyme disease in dogs.
- Visit [aldf.com](http://aldf.com) to learn more about Lyme disease in people.
- Visit [capcvet.org/maps](http://capcvet.org/maps) for Lyme disease prevalence in your area.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you have questions about your pet's diagnosis.

## The facts

- Evidence of Lyme infection can be alarming because it indicates your dog was bitten by a Lyme-infected tick. For us to determine the next step, we need to measure the level of antibodies in your dog. Antibodies are produced by your dog's immune system in response to the infection.
- Antibody levels can help us determine whether or not treatment is recommended. If we decide to treat, we can measure antibody levels again to make sure the antibiotic treatment is effective.



**IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.**  
One IDEXX Drive  
Westbrook, Maine 04092  
United States

# Lyme disease and your dog

We've found a Lyme disease infection in your dog. Here's what you need to know



# Lyme disease



## What it means for your dog

Your dog was bitten by a deer tick that carried the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. This dangerous infection may cause the following:

- Lameness
- Swollen joints
- Loss of appetite
- Fever

Dogs often display no clear signs of Lyme disease, so it's important to determine the level of infection in your dog. By measuring a specific antibody called "C<sub>6</sub>" in your dog's blood, we can determine whether treatment is required. If we do treat, we can monitor your dog's recovery by monitoring C<sub>6</sub> antibody levels.

## And what it means for you

**Your dog cannot directly transmit Lyme disease to you or your family.**

Your dog plays an important role in helping you remain alert. Now that you know Lyme disease exists in your area, watch for ticks and be aware of your family's risk of tick bites and infection.

To reduce risk, inspect every family member several times a day after enjoying outdoor activities. For guidelines to help your family avoid Lyme disease, visit the American Lyme Disease Foundation information site at [aldf.com](http://aldf.com).

# Testing ensures the right treatment for your dog

The level of Lyme disease infection, shown by C<sub>6</sub> antibody levels, helps our team track your dog's progress toward the best possible health. That's why we recommend the following:

## At the veterinary hospital

- We'll run a follow-up blood laboratory test, called the Lyme Quant C<sub>6</sub>® Test, to accurately measure your dog's antibody response to the infection.
- **Treatment recommendation**
  - If the antibody level is low, we may determine that your dog doesn't need immediate treatment. We'll schedule a follow-up appointment to monitor and maintain your dog's health.
  - If the antibody level is moderate or high, we may begin treatment immediately. Several effective antibiotics are available.
  - Dogs that tested positive for Lyme disease have an increased risk of developing chronic kidney disease (CKD). We may run additional chemistry panels that include the IDEXX SDMA® Test to help identify early onset CKD.
- **Effectiveness of treatment**
  - We'll retest your dog in six months to make sure the treatment was successful. We'll know the treatment has worked if the Lyme Quant C<sub>6</sub> Test indicates that the antibody level has dropped.

**Remember:** Because your dog has been exposed to Lyme disease, be sure to ask us about the risk of exposure to other tick-borne diseases and preventive measures.

## At home

- Your role is to be a "watchdog" for these signs and call us if they appear:
  - Reluctance to move or exercise
  - Lameness
  - Swollen or painful joints (your dog may vocalize when you touch their joints)
  - Increased thirst
  - Increased urination
- If we prescribe treatment for your dog, it's very important to follow the instructions and give your pet the full course of medicine.
- To help your dog avoid Lyme disease "reinfection," continue daily tick checks and apply tick-control product.

### Baseline

Lyme Quant C<sub>6</sub>® Test level:

### Follow-up appointment

Date and time:

### Follow-up Lyme Quant C<sub>6</sub> Test level:

Goal: A Lyme Quant C<sub>6</sub> Test result of less than 30, OR a 50% reduction of C<sub>6</sub> antibody levels.