

brown dog tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Arachnida

Order: Ixodida

Family: Ixodidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, nonnative

FEATURES

The unfed brown dog tick adult is about 1/8-inch long. Ticks have four pairs of legs (total of eight legs) in their adult form. The larval form of a tick has six legs.

BEHAVIORS

The brown dog tick is a tropical species that cannot survive outdoors in Illinois' winters. Also known as the kennel tick because it is mainly found in kennels or in homes with a dog, it feeds on dogs and can carry out its life cycle indoors. It hides in cracks, under rugs, in furniture and in other places. It is usually found around a dog's ears or toes, does not often bite humans and is not an important carrier of diseases. Local health departments and the Illinois Department of Public Health (217-782-2016 or <http://dph.illinois.gov/>) can provide more information about ticks and the diseases that they can carry.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. Biodiversity of Illinois.