

Beautiful summer weather always brings the joys of camping, fishing, hiking and having fun outdoors. It is a great opportunity to get outside and spend time with friends and family. Unfortunately, as with many fun activities, there is someone who sometimes ruins the fun for everyone. The culprits in this case are ticks!

There are several types of ticks in the Hocking County area such as the American dog tick, the Blacklegged deer tick and the Lone star tick. Most ticks are mainly active during the spring and summer months. However, there are a few types, such as the Black legged deer tick, that are active all year. Ticks typically live in wooded areas and tall grasses. If you are walking through areas like these, it is important to wear some type of tick repellent. Also, keeping your lawn trimmed will help keep ticks out of your yard.

If you happen to be bitten by a tick, it is important that you remove it correctly and that all parts of the tick are removed from the skin. Using fine pointed tweezers, grab the tick as closely to the skin as you can and pull straight out. DO NOT squeeze, burn, or cover the tick with substances such as Vaseline. Wash the area of the skin that was bitten and your hands with soap and water. You should also disinfect the tweezers used to remove the tick.

Tick bites are usually harmless and painless. However, sometimes they can transmit serious disease. Lyme disease is a concern in the Hocking County area, despite what some residents may believe. Symptoms of Lyme disease usually occur within three days to a month of being bitten by an infected tick. Fever, fatigue, chills, headache, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a very distinctive red "bull's-eye" rash are among these symptoms. If you experience these symptoms after being bitten by a tick, seek medical attention. Individuals infected with Lyme disease recover much more quickly and completely if treated with antibiotics in the early stages.