

Some facts to share to be tick aware

1. A female tick can lay as many as 3,000 eggs at a time
2. There are two families of ticks these are the Ixodidae (hard ticks) and the Argasidae (soft ticks)
3. The hard tick goes through three life stages. From eggs, they progress to the infant larvae stage that has six legs. The larvae feed on small animals and go through a further moult and become an eight legged immature nymph. The nymph feeds on a further host before becoming a mature adult.
4. Ticks are related to the arachnid (eight legged) family, but only develop eight legs during their nymph and adult stage of their life cycle
5. When the tick feeds, they can increase their size by as much as 200 times. This is referred to as engorgement.
6. Tick colouration varies between species, sexes, and different stages of engorgement
7. Ticks detect a host by sensing their breathing, body odours and heat
8. When a tick is waiting for a meal it is known as "questing". They wait in the undergrowth, holding their first pair of legs out to latch onto their host
9. The *Ixodes ricinus*, known as the sheep or deer tick, is found most frequently on people
10. The most prevalent tick borne disease in the UK is Borreliosis, commonly referred to as Lyme disease. It is called this after a cluster of infections was investigated in Old Lyme in Connecticut, America during the 1970s.

