

ATTENTION DOG WALKERS

There is a severe infestation of ticks in the area this year which includes township parks. These ticks, most likely the deer and dog tick species attach themselves to dogs [and humans] and may cause severe medical problems for your pet if care is not taken to protect your dog both before and after infestation.

If you walk your dog here, it is recommended that you first treat your dog with a preventative medication. A medication, named Frontline Plus is an excellent defense protector against ticks. It is applied to the pet's skin once per month. A spray is also available for immediate elimination of tick and flea infestations. Spraying yourself with a tick repellent before your walk is also suggested.

When walking, keep your pet to the center of the trail if possible. Ticks are present on adjacent grass and brush waiting for a chance jump and spread infectious diseases to your pet as it passes by.

Become aware of what a tick looks like and check your dog daily, especially after a walk in a high grass field area. Actually, ticks are being found in the City of Milan neighborhoods this year.

Ticks, in their early stages of attachment to animals are about 3 to 5 mm in a basic circle pattern including legs. They grasp your dog's skin and began to suck blood. They enlarge over time and filled with blood may grow to 10 mm in size. Checking your dog's skin daily and removing any ticks will help avoid serious medical problems, some being fatal. Ticks, especially large ticks should be removed carefully so as not to injure the pet.

Major canine parasitic diseases caused by ticks include Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis. Heartworm is another but that is spread by mosquitoes. Tick diseases cannot be transmitted directly from the pet to you or your family. However, if ticks are found in your area [they have], you may be at risk, just like your dog. It's important not only to check your dog, but yourself after spending time in parks and outdoor areas.

Please consult a Veterinarian for more information on ticks as they pose a serious threat to your pet.

We hope you enjoy the parks and will visit often.

York Township Parks and Recreation Committee