



TICK PARALYSIS

Ixodes ticks cause paralysis of muscles, muscles used for both walking and breathing!

Signs to watch out for;

- hindlimb weakness, “drunken” gait
- inability to walk
- regurgitation or dry retching
- change in bark/meow
- change in breathing
- grunting or coughing



If you notice any of these signs then check your pet thoroughly for a tick, walking your fingers through the hair coat. Most ticks will be found forward from the shoulders, but there will always be the odd one found between toes, under tail etc so be sure to check everywhere.

What to do when I find a tick?

Remove the tick by grasping close to the skin and twisting. You can also get specialised tools such as ‘Tick Twisters’ to aid in removal.

HAVE YOUR PET CHECKED BY A VET WHETHER THEY ARE SHOWING SIGNS OR NOT!

It is very common for tick paralysis cases to continue to decline for several days AFTER the tick is removed, or they may be displaying early signs that you may not be able to see (such as a reduced gag reflex). It is very important to discuss expected progression and treatment options with your vet even if your pet looks completely normal.

