

Protect your Horse and Canada from the Asian longhorned tick

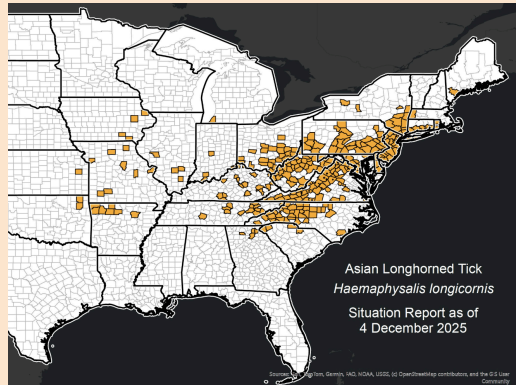
(*Haemaphysalis longicornis*)

What is an Asian longhorned tick, and what is the risk to Canada?

The Asian longhorned tick (ALT) is native to China, Japan, Russia, and Korea. The first detection of this tick in the United States was in New Jersey in 2017.

As of March 2026, no ALTs have been reported in Canada, but the ticks are present in many U.S. states, including those bordering Canada, and there is a significant risk that they will continue to spread north.

Current North American Distribution:



<https://tickapp.tamu.edu/invasive-ticks/asian-longhorned-tick-situation-report/>



CAHSS Vector-Borne
Diseases Network page



These ticks are light brown in color. The adult female is the size of a sesame seed and can grow to the size of a pea when fully engorged. Other stages of the tick are the size of a poppy seed or smaller. Males are rarely seen.

Female ALTs can reproduce without mating, so one tick can start a new population.

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What diseases can ALTs spread?

These ticks can cause heavy infestations on a single animal, resulting in severe stress and blood loss. ALTs also transmit the agents of several human and animal diseases, and infested horses can spread the ticks into Canada.

How to protect your horse

Tick exposure can occur year-round, depending on where you are, especially in warmer areas. Animals travelling to the northeastern and central US are currently at the highest risk.

The key to prevention:

- Keep grasses cut short and remove weeds and brush from grazing areas.
- If you can, move fences at least 3 meters (9 feet) away from wooded areas.
- Stop large wild animals (e.g. deer) from entering pastures by using tall (1.8-2.4 m) or electric fences.
- Regularly groom and check your horse for ticks, especially in the ears, under the jaw, the cheek, between the front legs, in the sheath/stifle area, under the tail, between the hind legs, and the lower leg.
- Promptly remove ticks.
- Speak to your veterinarian about additional tick prevention options, and consult them if your horse shows signs of illness.

How to remove a tick



Use a tick removal tool or fine-tipped tweezers to grab the tick as close to the skin as possible. Remove it by slowly pulling straight out (don't twist). Don't try to remove ticks using chemicals or heat.

Take a clear picture of the tick and upload it to [eTick.ca](https://etick.ca) for identification. Kill and save the tick by submerging it in rubbing alcohol for several days, in case it is requested to confirm the identification. Thoroughly wash the site of the tick bite with soap and water or a topical antiseptic. Monitor your pet for signs of illness. If you are unsure about how to remove a tick, please contact your veterinarian or visit the [Public Health Agency of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health) page.

Where to obtain more information?

Found a tick? Scan to report it!
Submit photos to [eTick.ca](https://etick.ca) for a free identification!



For more information about ticks, visit <https://ticktool.etick.ca/>

TickTool