

Top 10 Tick Facts

1 Ticks are most abundant from March to October (although bites can occur all year round) and are most prevalent in rural locations such as forests, woods and grassland, but can be active in urban parklands and gardens.

2 Ticks are closely related to spiders, belonging to the arachnid (eight-legged) family. They can be as small as a poppy seed and difficult to see.

3 Tick bite animals and humans to feed on blood they need to survive.

4 Tick saliva contains an anaesthetic which means you don't feel the bite.

5 Some ticks can live up to a year without a meal and go into a sleep state if there is no food or it is very cold.

6 Ticks don't fly or jump, they drop from low vegetation or climb on as animal or person brushes by the plants they are resting on.

7 Ticks like warm places on the body like the groin, armpits, navel and scalp. The back of the knee, waist and buttocks are also favourite blood-sucking spots.

8 A female tick can lay up to 3,000 eggs at a time.

9 There are over 20 tick species in the UK and over 800 worldwide.

10 Ticks can carry and transmit more than one disease simultaneously.