5 steps for successful tick removal

1. **Get your supplies**
   Pair of gloves, clean pair of tweezers or a commercial tick remover, antiseptic and rubbing alcohol.

2. **Remove the ticks**
   Wear gloves to avoid tick coming in contact with your skin since ticks can transmit diseases to people, too.

   *If you’re using tweezers:* Grasp the tick as close to your dog’s skin as possible. Pull outward in a straight, steady motion, doing your best to remove the entire tick. Don’t worry about any portion of the tick that might remain in the skin. The animal’s body will destroy, scab over, and remove any small remains. Digging into the animal’s skin with tweezers, etc., and trying to remove remaining parts of the tick may cause harm.

   *If you’re using a tick remover:* Gently press the remover against your dog’s skin near the tick. Slide the notch of the remover under the tick. Continue sliding until the tick is caught in the small end of the notch and is pulled free.

3. **Store the evidence**
   Drop the tick into a container of rubbing alcohol, which will quickly kill the tick. Scotch tape the tick to an index card and write the date on it and store in plastic bag. If your dog begins displaying symptoms of a tick-borne disease, your veterinarian may find the evidence useful to make a diagnosis.

4. **Clean the tick bite**
   Use antiseptic on the tick bite. Clean the tweezers or tick remover with rubbing alcohol and be sure to wash your hands too.

5. **Follow up**
   Watch the area where the tick was for signs of infection or irritation. If the site shows signs of this, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

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