

TIME IS TICKING

Can you find
15* ticks on
this poster?
*including eggs!

*Is the
tick the
villain of
this
complicated
story?*

Learn more



Adult: Females have a final meal, lay thousands of eggs, and restart the cycle.



Nymph: After molting, nymphs seek a second meal and are the stage most likely to bite humans.



Larvae: Six-legged larvae take their first blood meal, usually from small animals.



Eggs: Laid in leaf litter in clusters of hundreds to thousands.

Ticks move through three feeding life stages that each require one blood meal to grow or reproduce. They don't jump or fly; they wait on plants and detect heat, CO₂, and movement from passing hosts. Different stages feed on different animals, which shapes the pathogens they can pick up and spread. Their activity depends on temperature and humidity: warm, moist conditions keep them questing, while cold or dry periods push them into dormancy.