



COLORADO TICK FEVER

WHAT IS COLORADO TICK FEVER?

COLORADO TICK FEVER (CTF) IS A VIRAL INFECTION TRANSMITTED BY THE BITE OF THE *Dermacentor andersoni* TICK.

WHO GETS COLORADO TICK FEVER?

CTF IS COMMON IN THE SUMMER, IN CAMPER AND PEOPLE WHO SPEND TIME OUTDOORS. THIS DISEASE IS MOSTLY SEEN IN COLORADO, BUT IS MUCH LESS COMMON IN THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COLORADO TICK FEVER?

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, SWEATING, MUSCLE ACHES, HEADACHES, SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT, NAUSEA VOMITING, AND WEAKNESS.

HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS START ABOUT 3 TO 6 DAYS AFTER THE TICK BITE. SYMPTOMS OF FEVER CONTINUE FOR 3 DAYS, STOP, THEN COME BACK 1 TO 3 DAYS LATER FOR ANOTHER FEW DAYS.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR COLORADO TICK FEVER?

MAKE SURE THE TICK IS FULLY REMOVED FROM THE SKIN. TREATMENT INCLUDES TAKING A PAIN RELIEVER (DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN TO CHILDREN; IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH REYE'S SYNDROME IN SOME VIRAL ILLNESSES). IF COMPLICATIONS DEVELOP, TREATMENT WILL BE AIMED AT DECREASING SYMPTOMS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF COLORADO TICK FEVER GOES UNTREATED?

CTF IS USUALLY NOT LIFE THREATENING. POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS INCLUDE ASEPTIC MENINGITIS, ENCEPHALITIS, AND HEMORRHAGIC FEVER, BUT THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXTREMELY RARE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT COLORADO TICK FEVER?

WHEN WALKING OR HIKING IN TICK-INFESTED AREAS, TUCK LONG PANTS INTO SOCKS TO PROTECT THE LEGS, AND WEAR SHOES AND LONG-SLEEVED SHIRTS. TICKS WILL SHOW UP ON WHITE OR LIGHT COLORS BETTER THAN DARK COLORS, MAKING THEM EASIER TO REMOVE FROM YOUR CLOTHING. CHECK YOURSELF AND YOUR PETS FREQUENTLY. IF YOU FIND TICKS, REMOVE THEM IMMEDIATELY BY USING A TWEEZERS, PULLING CAREFULLY AND STEADILY. INSECT REPELLENT MAY BE HELPFUL.