

**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
2201 COURAGE DRIVE, MS 9-200  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533  
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



**To: Drop-off Locations for Tick Testing**  
Date: May 14, 2019

**Effective immediately**

This communication is to inform you that our laboratory will no longer be testing *Dermacentor* species ticks for the presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*. *Dermacentor variabilis*, also known as the American dog tick, is the most common species found in California (see picture below). Scientific studies have shown that these ticks are not competent vectors for transmitting Lyme disease.

Only *Ixodes* species ticks have been shown to be able to infect a host with *Borrelia burgdorferi* upon blood-feeding. *Ixodes pacificus*, also known as the western blacklegged tick, is the most common species found in California. *Ixodes* species ticks will continue to be tested for the bacterium that causes Lyme disease.

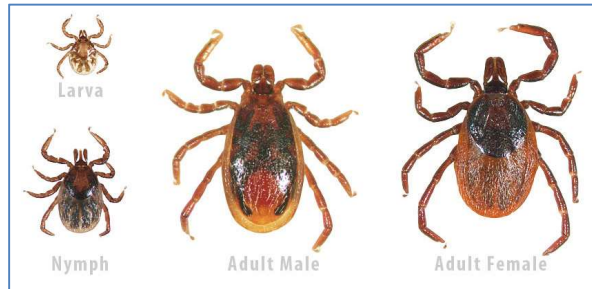
The laboratory will still accept and identify the *Dermacentor* species ticks. The fee for identification and/or testing will remain the same (\$34), regardless of the type of the tick submitted. No refunds will be issued.

Pictures below are helpful tool to distinguish between *Dermacentor* sp. and *Ixodes* sp. ticks.

***Dermacentor variabilis* (American Dog Tick)**



***Ixodes pacificus* (Western Blacklegged Tick)**



Please do not hesitate to contact the laboratory with any questions

Sincerely,

Beatrix Kapusinszky, Ph.D., PHLD(ABB)  
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<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/bureaus/laboratory/default.asp>