Florida Tick Check

Blacklegged Tick
Habitat: Wooded areas with leaf litter and white tail deer

Lone Star Tick
Habitat: Deciduous forests with surround high grass and white tail deer

American Dog Tick
Habitat: Meadow and young forests along roads and trails

Brown Dog Tick
Habitat: Shaded sandy areas: cracks, houses, ceilings and kennels

Size of a Tick

Adult female
Adult male
Nymph
Larva
Tick Borne Diseases

**Ehrlichiosis**
- Transmitted by the bite of an infected lone star tick
- 3 main bacteria species: *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *Ehrlichia ewingii*, and *Ehrlichia muris*
- Symptoms: fever, headache, rash, fatigue, and muscle aches and occur 1-2 weeks after tick bite
- See doctor if symptoms occurs

**Lyme Disease**
- Transmitted by the bite of a blacklegged (deer) tick
- Symptoms: fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans (bullseye rash)
- Erythema migrans begins at the site of a tick bite after a delay of 3 to 30 days (average is about 7 days)
- If untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system
- The majority of Lyme disease cases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics

**Rickettsioses**
- American dog tick transmits *Rickettsia rickettsii* the bacteria that causes Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)
  - Late stages will have a spotty rash
- The Gulf Coast tick transmits *Rickettsia parkeri* the bacteria that causes *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis
- Common symptoms: fever, headache, rash, eschar, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, muscle pain and lack of appetite
- Rickettsioses can be mild (*R. parkeri*) to life threatening (RMSF)
- Treated with doxycycline
- See doctor immediately if you have any symptoms

**Viruses**
- Heartland and Bourbon viruses are recently discovered viruses
- Transmitted from a tick bite from the lone star tick
- Both occur in the Southeastern US but have yet to be detected in FL
- Both viruses have similar symptoms to tick borne diseases
  - Fever, headaches, fatigue and muscle aches.
- There are no current treatments for these tick borne viruses

Rashes from Ehrlichiosis infections can vary

Eschar from a *R. parkeri* infection

Rash from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever