

2020 Mid-Summer I-TICK Newsletter

PHOTO CREDITS: ALL PHOTOS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER WERE SUBMISSIONS TO THE TICK APP FROM ILLINOIS, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN AND MAINE PARTICIPANTS.

TOP LEFT: ADULT FEMALE *DERMACENTOR VARIABILIS*, THE AMERICAN DOG TICK.

TOP RIGHT: VENTRAL VIEW OF A FED ADULT FEMALE *IXODES SCAPULARIS*, AKA DEER TICK.

BOTTOM LEFT: ADULT FEMALE *IXODES SCAPULARIS*.

BOTTOM RIGHT: ADULT MALE *DERMACENTOR VARIABILIS*.



Above are two adult female *Dermacentor variabilis*, aka the American dog tick. The one to the left was estimated to have fed for about 4-5 days. The female on the right did not feed.



On the left we have an unfed adult male *Ixodes scapularis*, the Deer tick. To the right is an attached female *Amblyomma americanum*, aka the Lone star tick. This female was estimated to have fed for about 3-4 days.

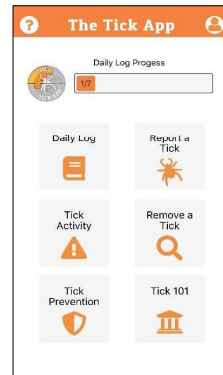
Welcome everyone!

In light of current situations with COVID-19, our team wanted to keep you updated on what we've been up to. For a program designed to work in person, the transition to an online version has been running smoothly and effectively. Currently, all members of our lab are working remotely from home for safety and health reasons. Let's go into detail on some updates and changes the I-TICK program has to offer during this pandemic! Need a quick refresher on what we're all about? [Click here](#) for a quick run down on our site! In May, an article written by some of our researchers was published in Oxford's Journal of Medical Entomology. Click on this [link](#) to read about how they were able to update Illinois tick distribution maps and what the new maps look like!

The Tick App

Earlier this spring, the UIUC officially joined The Tick App team! COVID-19 brought on some complications but with the help of The Tick App, we are still able to continue our I-TICK program through contact free participation. If you're not familiar with the app and/or would like to find out how you can be a part of our surveillance program, visit <https://thetickapp.org/> !

The Tick App also held a Battle of The Daily Log competition between all participating states, Illinois included. The state that had the most daily log entries by Tick App users by the end of June won. Sadly, Illinois came in 3rd place but we'll be sure to win next time!



Online Surveillance Training

Part of our transition is to offer remote training to public health officials and other individuals interested in learning more about how to perform active tick surveillance. Our team has put together a series of videos in order to provide the training needed to start active tick surveillance within respective jurisdictions. [CLICK HERE](#) to get started on your training!

A voluntary research study is also available for participants to determine if the training videos are effective in changing your knowledge and practices in terms of tick surveillance. This consent form has more detail on the study in terms of what we are planning to do with the data, what participation means, and the benefits and risks of the study. We encourage you all to participate! After you complete this workshop, you will earn a completion certificate. Your participation could be very useful to our team in learning about ticks!

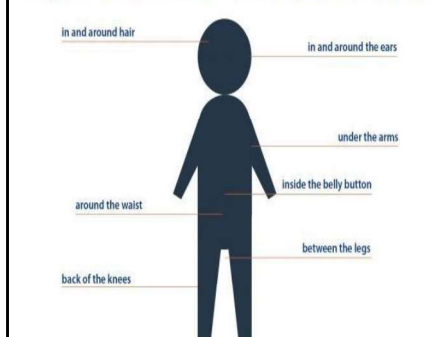
Lastly, don't forget to follow our socials!

Instagram: @itickssurveillance

Twitter: @ITickUIUC

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ITICKsurveillance/>

Important areas to check for ticks



To avoid tick bites, thoroughly check yourself and your clothes after being in an active tick area!

For more detailed instructions, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/media/stopticks.html>



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