A Bug's Life

Fun facts
- Ticks are arachnids, not insects
- 3 hosts required for development
- Locate host by questing and CO2
- Can remain embedded for days feeding on blood, becoming engorged
- Latch on near ground level and crawl upward to feeding area, often scalp, armpit, groin area and other crevices

Identification
- Eggs: Laid in mass outdoors
- Larva: Tiny with 3 pairs of legs
- Nymph: 4 pairs of legs
- Adult: Flat, wingless, hardened body, species identified by color/markings/patterns, length of mouthparts, festoons. Size depends on age and tick species, but they are very small!

Management
- Treat pets with preventative
- Perform thorough and frequent tick checks of person, pets, children
- Remove prompt and properly
- Use insect repellent on skin or wear permethrin-treated clothing
- Put clothes in hot clothes dryer for 30-min after outdoor activities

Management

Ticks
- Family: Ixodidae (Hard ticks)

American dog tick
Lone star tick
Blacklegged tick

Photos: J. Green

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