

REMOVING TICKS

What you need

- * **A tick removal tool;**
or, if not available,
- * **Tweezers**
- * **Alcohol or similar**
- * **Disinfectant**
- * **Latex gloves**

Grooming your BGV regularly provides the opportunity to feel all over his body.

Part his coat and make sure there are no ticks attached to his skin. Be especially careful to check anywhere where your BGV's coat is matted, the ideal hiding place for a tick.

If you find one, check the entire body as there may be more – and remove as soon as possible.



If possible, wear latex or surgical gloves

Whatever method used to remove a tick, the most common mistake is to not remove the whole insect.

When it sucks your BGV's blood, the tick's head is pressed against his skin, face first. Its mouth is actually buried under the skin.



Be careful not to leave the head behind, or you expose your BGV to numerous diseases.



Although not recommended by some, one way to remove a tick is with tweezers - which you may need to use if you have nothing else available.

Hold a cotton swab soaked in mineral oil against the tick for about 30 seconds. Use the tweezers to squeeze the skin that surrounds the tick and to grab its head. Slowly, pull it out. When you have finished, cleanse and disinfect the area.

Another method is to use a wire hook – a simple device which makes it difficult to leave any part of the tick behind.

Slip the wider part of the hook over the tick, then slide it until the narrow part is right under the tick. Rotate it with a slight upward motion until the tick detaches itself.

Make sure you have got everything out – and wash your hands afterwards.



AVOID

- * **SQUASHING THE TICK AS CONTENTS OF ITS INTESTINES, WHICH CONTAIN DISEASE-CARRYING BACTERIA, MAY SPREAD INTO YOUR BGV'S BLOODSTREAM.**
- * **BURNING THE TICK WHILE IT IS STILL ATTACHED TO YOUR BGV'S BODY**
- * **SQUASHING IT WITH YOUR FINGERS**