

Dear Falcon Families,

We have been notified that a student at our school discovered an American Dog Tick (or Wood Tick) this week. It was removed in urgent care and could have been received at school. While we are very happy with the greenspace our children have to play in, it is always important to be aware of things like this.

American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

One of the most frequently encountered ticks is the American dog tick, also sometimes known as the wood tick. The larvae and nymphs feed on small warm-blooded animals such as mice and birds. The adult American dog tick will feed on humans and medium to large mammals such as raccoons and dogs. Unfed males and females are reddish-brown and about 3/16-inch long. Females have a large silver-colored spot behind the head and will become 1/2-inch long after feeding or about the size of a small grape. Males have fine silver lines on the back and do not get much larger after feeding. Males are sometimes mistaken for other species of ticks because they appear so different from the female.

The adults are most active in April, May and June. By September, the adults are inactive and are rarely observed. The American dog tick can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia and possibly ehrlichiosis to humans.

For more information you may also visit:

<http://www.tickinfo.com/americandogtick.htm>

OR

<http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/tick-bites-topic-overview>

OR

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8410-e/>