The “New” Tick in Town

There are reports of the North American Lone Star tick (Amblyomma americanum) as far back as the late 1700s.

**EXPANDING!**
- Range includes Southeast, mid-Atlantic, and South-central states but expanding north and west.
- Lone Stars are aggressive biters and require forests with dense undergrowth.

**KNOWN DISEASES**
- Ehrlichia (can begin transmission within 6 hours), tularemia, southern tick-association rash illness (STARI) – pathogen unknown, and Heartland virus (rare)

**EHRLICHIA transmission possible within 6 HOURS!**

**PREVENTION**
- Wear permethrin-treated shoes and clothing when in tick habitat.
- Tuck in shirts and socks.
- Perform careful tick checks.
- Remove any biting tick promptly with a pointy tweezer, save it for testing or take a photo.

**IDENTIFICATION**
- Adult female Lone Star ticks have a bright yellowish-white dot at the base of their scutum, light brown body.
- Males are light brown and their scutums are mottled with black and a few white streaks.
- Nymphs and six-legged larvae are round with long, straight mouth-parts.
- All change in appearance and size when they feed.

**RED MEAT ALLERGY**
- Bites cause sensitivity to a carbohydrate on mammalian meat cells called alpha-gal
- Early symptoms: gastrointestinal upset (nausea, diarrhea, indigestion) but most commonly general itchiness.

**GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET GENERAL ITCHINESS**
- The allergy can take 1-3 months after the tick bite to appear. Allergic reactions occur 2-6 hours after ingestion of mammalian meat (e.g. pork, beef, lamb – not poultry or fish).
- Reaction can include hives and rashes or anaphylaxis
- You can be tested for the allergy after Lone Star bite exposure. Limited evidence has shown that the allergy can wane by avoiding additional tick bites.