

Pick that Tick

This lesson plan for school years 2 to 4 aims to share the knowledge and value of tick prevention for dogs, in particular relation to Ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne disease. The download includes teacher's instructions and templates.

Resource Categories	Dog; Game
Suitable Age Level	Year Two to Year Four
Desired Understandings	Students gain an understanding the health impacts that ticks have on dogs and understand the importance of tick prevention medication.
Resources Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x Meter faux fur (brown) 2 x Meter of felt (Brown) 10 x Fabric weights Tick Template (supplied) Dog Template (supplied) Sewing instructions (supplied) Dog pictures (supplied) 2 x 40cm Wooden stick String Wood glue 60 x Small Magnets or Magnetic Tape Gloves (for each student) Bin or bucket Empty boxes or pictures of tick medications Laminator/Sheets Scissors Sewing machine or Fabric glue Garbage bag/shopping bag 2 x Lab glasses (optional for younger students)
Additional AMRRIC resources to support lesson content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tick Animation video Good One/ Sick One Who's the Sick Tick

Lesson Plan: Pick That Tick

Preparation

Before beginning, make sure that all lesson resources have been made and prepared for the session. Refer to sewing and preparation sheet below.

Introduction

- Introduce the topic of ticks on dogs' skin. Ask who has a dog and allow students to share a few stories. Ask if any of the students' have ever seen ticks on dogs in their community. For example, was it a little or big dog? Did it have lots of ticks or only a few? Have you ever seen ticks on your dog?
- Explain that ticks carry disease and sickness in them and can make dogs very sick, so it is important to give our dogs medicine.
- Introduce students to the game.

Game

- Using the tick picture templates, show students.
- Ask students who has seen a dog like this?
- Explain that ticks can carry diseases which make our dogs very sick, especially a new disease called (Ehrlichiosis) which is making dogs have cloudy eyes (show picture), skinny (show picture), not interested in food (show picture) and is passed by just one tick (show pictures).
- Ticks can also live in our house and bite us, so this is why it is so important to give our dogs medicine, to keep us and them happy and healthy (show pictures of tick medicines)
- Now dogs can get lots of ticks and it can be hard to remove these all by hand. Medicine is a much better way of keeping ticks off our dogs. If we do not use medicine our dogs can get lots of ticks. Do you know how many ticks a dog could have on their body and how long it would take for us to pull them off? Let us find out!
- Take students outside and set up the game
- Set up
 - Lay the two faux fur dogs apart on the ground, fur facing up and place the magnetic ticks on top of each dog. Ensure there is an even amount of ticks on both dogs.
 - As a class decide on a name for each dog. Eg Buster and Princess

- Explain to the students that Buster was the only dog that had ticks, but because Buster and Princess are friends and live at the same house the ticks have now crawled onto Princess as well.
- Now both dogs are covered in ticks and have the tick sickness.
- Divide the class into two groups and allocated each group a dog, either Buster or Princess.
- Line each group up approx. 20m away from their dog (distance dependant on class age group)
- Place bin bag beside each dog
- Place the bucket/bin around 10m behind the dog (opposite direction from students)
- Tell students we must be safe when taking ticks off our dog so everyone must put on gloves (pass out gloves)
- Given each group a fishing rod.
 - On the teachers signal, the students in the front of the line with the fishing rod must run up to their dog and pick a magnetised tick off the dog with their fishing rod.
 - Once the student has a tick attached to the end of their fishing road, they must take it off and put the tick in the bag next to the dog.
 - The student must now run back and pass the fishing line to the next student in line.
 - This process repeats until the last tick has been removed from the dog.
 - The student removing the last tick from their dog must also place their tick in the bag next to their dog, however this time tie the bag up and run it up to their bin.
 - Once the student has placed their bag in the bin they must run as fast as they can back to their group.
 - The first group to have all the ticks removed from their dog and placed into the bin, win the game.
- At the end of the game, discuss how long it took to get all the ticks off the dogs.
- Reiterate that we cannot do this for every dog and that, tomorrow, another tick can come along and bite our dog, even though we just spent all that time taking ticks off him the day before.
- It only takes one tick to pass the tick sickness...and look how many you just took off!
- Reiterate the importance of buying medicine for our dogs to prevent tick biting our dog and giving them tick sickness.
- Show sample tick medications again to students.

- Remind students that no ticks on our dogs means no ticks on us. Happy and healthy dogs mean we are also happy and healthy.

To make game more exciting, you can include the lab glasses (1 pair per group), which need to be passed and worn for each round, in addition to the passing of the fishing line.



Appendix A

Sewing and Preparation Instructions

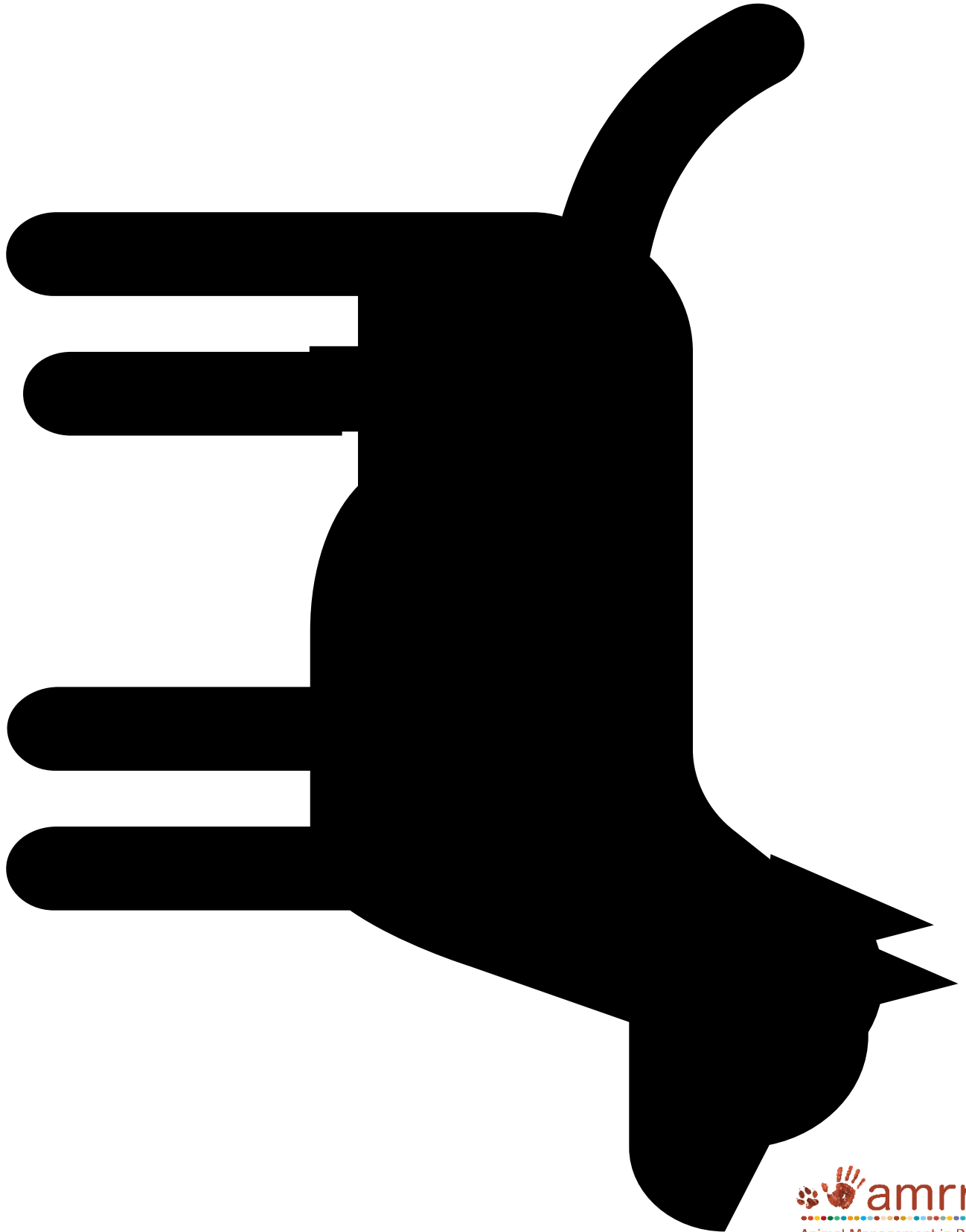
Materials

2 x Meter faux fur brown
2 x Meter of felt Brown
2 x 40cm Wooden sticks
String
Wood glue/tape
Sewing machine or Fabric Glue
60 x Small Magnets or Magnetic Tape
Laminator/Sheets
Scissors

- Cut and laminated all picture templates.
- Cut and laminate 60 ticks. 30 per dog.
- Using either small magnets or magnetic tape attach to the back of each tick.
- Place ticks on each dog. Can attach to dog with magnetic tape, or simply lie them on top
- Make two fishing rods by attaching string approx. 84cm in length to the end of each wooden stick.
- Secure the string by either taping or using wood glue.
- Secure a magnet to the bottom of the string. This will act like a hook and allow the ticks to attach when students are playing the game.
- Enlarge and cut dog sewing template to A2 or A1 (depending on paper availability)
- Trace two dog templates onto felt and two onto Faux fur. This will give you two complete dogs with a fur front and felt back.
- Join the felt and fur together.
- Place rocks to act as weights on the feet, tail, head, and snout of each dog.
- Sew or use fabric glue to secure the felt and faux fur together

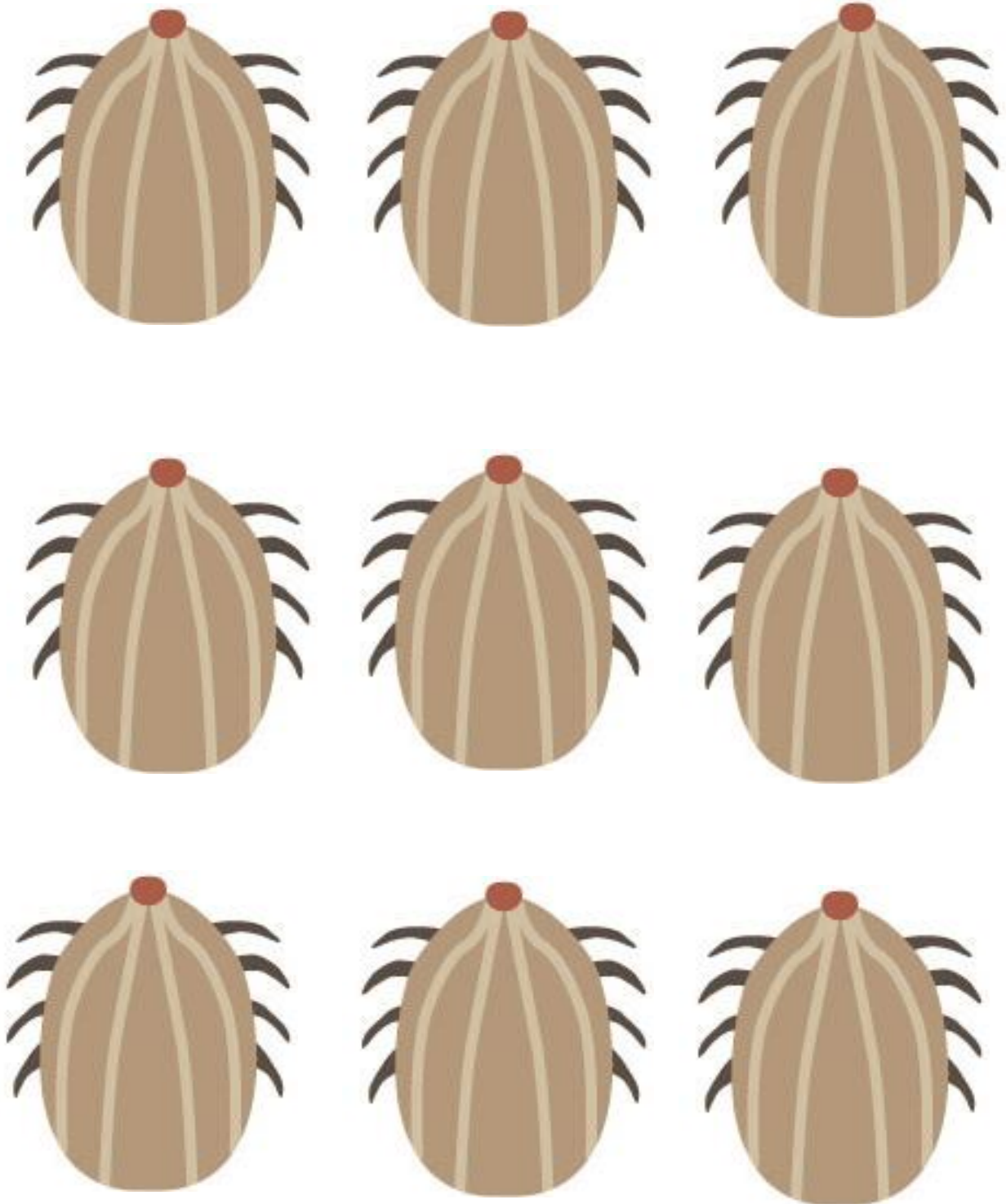
Appendix B

Dog Template Sewing



Appendix B

Tick Template



Appendix C

Dog Pictures

Prep Instructions

- Cut out pictures
- Laminate them





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