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# The Party Animal News

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## Pet Sitters

On April 1, 2002 NPR's All Things Considered reported that the Bush administration had proposed extending universal health care to pets. Most of us have had pets and all I can say is, tooth cleaning for a pet is expensive but most of us will do anything for our pet so will pay the cost. I remember this report and I remember the person being interviewed saying that he did not have kids but he considered his pets his children and he thought it was a good idea. I, of course, thought this was a stupid idea and once you realize the date of the report you can figure out that it was an April Fools joke.

The thing is that our furry friends are an integral part of the family and while there are families with fidos there are also many single people as well, and when they work or travel, who is going to watch "the kids"? Their proper care is a priority. Possibly due to meeting this need, there are more pet sitters, dog walkers and so forth today than there were when this report was done many years ago.

This past year we have worked with a pet sitter who unfortunately developed a tick problem in the home where a few of the dogs come for doggy day care. A tick bite alone could cause a multitude of problems, and one of the newest to be reported is a meat allergy associated with the Lone Star Tick.



*Lone Star Tick*

This dog sitter went out of her way to make sure she had documentation that the canines in her care had the proper vaccines and took monthly products to control ticks, fleas and other parasites. However, a new dog added to her group had the flea care but not the tick program. Its owner had been confused and unfortunately it was this dog that brought the tick problem into the home of the diligent pet sitter as well as its owners home.

So, if you are looking for doggy care there are a lot of questions that should be asked, and my entomological advice is that you should ask how the potential pet sitter addresses this issue. Do they keep records for all the dogs in their care so they know that all in their home have their proper treatments and vaccines? This can easily be discovered by asking any potential sitters what they require from the owner. If it is nothing, than you might want to find a more conscientious sitter. (Your veterinarian is regulated but I do not think a dog sitter is.) Remember that a tick might hop a short ride on the dog but not stay there long enough to be killed and end up hopping off into your car or house and the only available host will be you because you are not on the program your pet is on. Worst case scenario is that you get a tick bite and you develop a disease or something wacky like a red meat allergy for the rest of your life.

Now, if you do end up with a tick on you for some reason (hunting trip, hiking, a stroll in the park, etc...), be sure to keep the tick. We have worked with a company for many years that can analyze the tick for specific diseases, and that is definitely worth your peace of mind.

### Pest of the Quarter: Rain

Help Us Help YOU after our  
10.5 inches of rain

- Empty any containers that are holding water - mosquitoes love to breed in these and do it FAST.
- Get the gutters cleaned - the leaves don't drop for a couple more months.
- Check your property for fire ant mounds. They can move to electronics (compressors and electric gates) and damage them if not treated.
- If you see holes on your home you need an inspections before rats enter during a cold spell.



*Mosquito larvae in a rain barrel.*

In the 50's, 60's and 70's we lived in a society in which pesticides were supported by the public.

With the evolution of many environmental groups scaring people about pesticides we now live in a society where the bugs once again have the upper hand. That means a stroll in the park is great for a family of insects but for a human family and their pets there are many diseases and problems that are around every corner. If you do not use an insect repellent, a simple walk could mean contracting a debilitating mosquito borne disease, encountering chiggers that could cause an infected wound or, of course, a tick could give you lyme disease or something even worse. As Sgt. Esterhaus in the Hill Street Blues TV show used to say,

"Let's be careful out there." - David

## Drain Flies

Sometimes homes will develop these little flies in the living space and you wonder what is going on. If you see small moth like flies and there is an odor it is possible that you have a damaged sewer line under your home. With homes with a slab structure (with our faulty foundations in North Texas), a crack in a sewer line could provide a great breeding ground for these insects. There are chemical treatments that can be done but repairing the leaks is the best way to fix the problem permanently.

**If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.**

*We VALUE our customers!*

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2017 Texas State Fair - winning entry!

## State Fair of Texas

As you have read in the past, I have submitted items to be judged at the State Fair. This is the fourth year I have done this and it was unfortunate that the weekend that I had to deliver the items to be judged I was going to be out of town. Ann went with me before so she knew where to go and kindly volunteered to drop off my items for me. Apparently, the same ladies who have previously volunteered to accept entries recognized my name and looked about for me only to be disappointed that I was not there and wondered who she was. They said they'd never seen her before. Haha. I guess I have a little fan club at the State Fair. Not that I am counting my ribbons, but I am. 2014—2nd place, 2016— Honorable mention, 2017— 1st place, 2- 2nd place and Honorable mention, and for 2018 drum roll please.... 2nd place and Honorable mention! I hope you go to the fair this fall. It's a lot of fun for all. If you go, try to find my entries. One is mousetraps and the other is a sprayer and duster. My name appears on the ribbons.



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