

# **TICKS IN AUSTRALIA**

**These are three out of the twelve tick species of tick found on dogs in Australia they can all make your dog very sick if not found and treated but the worst one is the Paralysis Tick it can KILL your four legged friend if you don't do first aid on him or her and get them immediately to the vet. Once the tick has attached itself onto the dog it will gauge itself with the dogs blood by doing this it injects a very poisonous venom into the animal this venom is a neurotoxin and will paralyse your dogs .**

**The paralysis tick has a four host life cycle; which means it needs to find a host and engorge each phase of its development (egg, larva, nymph, adult) during the year. The natural hosts are native wildlife such as bandicoots, possums, koalas and macro pods but the tick occasionally will attach to domestic animals and even humans. Paralysis tick presents on the east coast of Australia only. Humid conditions are essential for survival of the paralysis tick. Dry conditions, relatively high (32°C) and low (7°C) temperatures will kill all stages after a days. An ambient temperature of 27°C and high relative humidity is thought to be optimal for rapid development.**

**The tick population in a given year is probably governed by the rainfall in the previous year if the temperature variations have only been moderate. If there has been a cold winter in South East Queensland and also drought, the coming season won't favour tick development.**