

Rosewood's "Golden Moment"

A newsletter, Written & Designed with Goldens in Mind! Rosewood Goldens is celebrating 20 years of breeding! We've grown with Goldens our whole life, gaining both real world and customer experiences. Through this newsletter, we'd like to share those experiences with you, one newsletter at a time. Plain and simple, WE KNOW GOLDENS.



Flea & Tick Prevention Guide

Ready to get the creepy crawlies? It's tick season! Protecting your golden retriever from fleas and ticks requires a well-rounded approach, especially in the Midwest. After years of hands-on experience, I'd like to share my system of prevention, treatment, and health awareness. Here are some steps you can take to create the best defense and keep your golden and let's face it, your family, tick-free this season.

Where Fleas & Ticks Thrive

Fleas and ticks flourish in environments that offer moisture, shade, and protection. Common hotspots include tall grass, wooded areas, brush lines, leaf litter, and shaded yard edges. Areas such as wood piles, under decks, and dense landscaping can also harbor these pests.

Your yard plays a major role in flea and tick exposure. Maintaining short grass,

removing leaf litter, trimming shrubs, and reducing shaded areas can significantly decrease the likelihood of infestation. Creating gravel or mulch barriers between wooded areas and your lawn helps limit migration, while targeted treatments in shaded zones further strengthen your defense.



Pet-Safe Treatments

At Rosewood Goldens, we use several types of treatments to create a tiered defense against ticks by working from the

outside in. We've found this first step made the largest difference to keeping our Golden's tick free.

On the perimeters of our property, we use a cold fogger to blow an even coverage of [Permethrin](#) into the edges of our wooded areas and fencing. Most ticks like to live near the lower portion of tree trunks and posts. After applying Permethrin, avoid the area until it dries. ***Permethrin is highly toxic to cats before it's dry.*** After drying Permethrin is extremely safe and is one of few treatments approved for indoor and restaurant use.

The next tier is your lawn. Choosing the right lawn treatment is essential for both effectiveness and safety. For our lawn we choose to use a more natural option in our family's heavily used areas. [Cedarwood](#) and mint oil-based sprays need to be applied consistently in order to be effective, but it's affordable and simple to apply even in a hurry. Most of these treatments come in a bottle that attaches to your garden hose. We also enjoy the calming aroma it produces for our sunset break next to the fire.



Chewables vs Topicals

The next level of defense is your Golden. Treatments for your Golden come in several forms, we have found that topical

treatments are best, and only recommend chewables when needed.

Topical treatments come in two forms. Natural treatments, like spray on cedarwood and mint oils can lightly repel fleas and ticks, but will not eradicate them. When using this method, you will need to apply it daily.

Rosewood Golden's uses [Frontline Plus](#) or a generic version with the active ingredient fipronil as our best defense. When applying topical treatments, it's important to apply it directly to the skin. Topical treatments can repel ticks before they attach, though their effectiveness may be reduced with frequent bathing or swimming.

That's where chewables come in. Chewables must be prescribed by your veterinarian. They work from the inside out and are unaffected by water, making them ideal for active or swimming dogs. However, they generally require a tick to bite before it's eradicated.

Chewables have also been known to cause neurological issues when taken frequently. We suggest that you only use this treatment if needed. If your Golden's a dock jumper or a backyard super swimmer, we suggest the use of chewables during the season, then switch to topical treatments in the off season.

Prevention with Routine

Golden retrievers face unique challenges when it comes to flea and tick exposure due to their thick double coats and feathering along the legs, chest, and tail. These features provide ideal hiding places

for parasites, and their active, outdoor nature increases their exposure.

A consistent daily routine is one of the most effective defenses against fleas and ticks. After outdoor activity, a full-body inspection should be performed, focusing on hidden areas such as the ears, under the collar, armpits, groin, tail base, and between the toes. Regular [brushing](#) not only supports coat health but also helps detect parasites early before they become a larger issue.

Tick Removal Best Practices

When a tick is found, proper removal is essential to reduce the risk of infection. Using a [fine-tipped tweezer](#) or a specialized tick tool, the tick should be grasped close to the skin and pulled straight out without twisting. Avoid using oils, heat, or bare fingers, as these methods can increase the chance of disease transmission. After removal, the area should be cleaned and monitored for signs of irritation. Keeping the tick in a jar in case symptoms develop is veterinarian recommended.

Tick-Borne Illness

Ticks are capable of transmitting serious diseases such as [Lyme Disease](#). Symptoms include fatigue, limping, fever, and loss of appetite. Prompt treatment significantly improves outcomes and reduces the risk of long-term complications.

It is also common for Lyme to sit dormant in your dog's system and later presents itself when your dog becomes stressed

either physically or through anxiety. In most cases your vet will prescribe a steroid treatment to return your dog to normal health.

Fleas in Spring & Summer

Fleas become increasingly active in warmer months and can reproduce rapidly once established. They thrive in leaves, dusty areas, including loose hair. In addition to causing irritation and itching, they can lead to skin infections and discomfort. Fortunately, many flea preventatives also cover ticks, allowing for streamlined protection when choosing the right product.



Layered Prevention Strategy

The most effective flea and tick protection strategy involves multiple layers of defense. Combining consistent preventative treatments, regular grooming and inspection, and yard maintenance and treatments, you've created a system that significantly reduces risk and keeps your family protected throughout the year.

Have a blessed season! Author and owner, Matt Elsmore- The [Rosewood Goldens](#).