



ZENTRUM FÜR PATHOPHYSIOLOGIE,  
INFEKTILOGIE UND IMMUNOLOGIE  
MEDIZINISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

Institut für Hygiene und Angewandte  
Immunologie



MEDIZINISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

**WANTED**

**FULLY ENGORGED PET TICKS**



**THE**

**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
ASKS FOR YOUR HELP**

### Who are you?

Are you an owner of a pet that frequently brings home ticks? Then you are perfectly suited to support us with a living tick donation!

### Who are we and what do we want?

We are the Austrian research group for ticks and tick-borne pathogens at the Institute for Hygiene and Applied Immunology of the Centre for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology at the Medical University of Vienna.

Aside from determining infection rates of ticks in Austria we are also interested in other tick-related research fields. For those, we need as many fully engorged ticks as possible because these are more likely to provide us with the tick material needed for certain studies.

### What can you do for us?

As a pet owner you are most probably acquainted with the life stage of the fully engorged adult female *Ixodes ricinus* ticks. It is exactly this life stage which we need for our studies – and we need it alive! Therefore, you are invited to send us such ticks in a pressure-safe containment or simply bring them by.

### How to collect those ticks?

As soon as a female tick is fully engorged it lets loose from the host by itself and drops to the ground where she will start laying eggs. So, either you find those ticks already lying around your house or garden or you remove them from your animals yourself e.g. using a tick-forceps.

For transport to our lab it is particularly important that the ticks are kept in a safe container so that they cannot be squeezed. You might use small glasses, chewing gum boxes, Tic Tac boxes etc. for this purpose. If you have a bigger number of ticks that you want to donate, we can offer containers from our side.



Fig. 1. fully engorged adult female tick stuck in Bella

Fig. 2. fully engorged female ~1cm in size after detachment from host

Please send the living ticks as soon as possible incl. the questionnaire to following address:

To  
Tick Research Group  
Institute for Hygiene and Applied Immunology  
Kinderspitalgasse 15  
1090 Vienna

#### Additional information

If you have any further questions you can contact us via email:  
[zecken@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:zecken@meduniwien.ac.at)

---

## Questionnaire Pet ticks

### Sender information (voluntary, for if we have questions)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tick information

Pet name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet species: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection area (e.g. hometown of pet): \_\_\_\_\_

Was your pet treated with acaricides (anti-tick/flea-agent)?

Yes    If yes, which one and when was the last application?

\_\_\_\_\_

No