Preventing RMSF in Your Family

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is a bacterial disease that infects ticks and can be given to people when bitten by a tick.

In the past few years parts of Arizona including the San Carlos Reservation have seen spikes in RMSF disease rates which contributes to some deaths. It must be spotted, diagnosed, and treated as soon as possible.

Checking your body:
- Look in folds of skin and between toes
- Behind your knees
- Between your legs
- Under the arms
- In and around the ears
- In the scalp along the hairline and throughout the hair

Checking your Dogs for ticks
Run your hand along areas of concern holding the hair back exposing the dog’s skin underneath.

Areas of concern:
- Ears (folds, behind, and inside)
- On chest & under upper front legs
- between toes / under foot pad
- Around the neck or back of neck

Using Deet and other Tick Repellents

The best protection you can achieve is by using a repellent that contains Permethrin on your clothes and one that contains DEET for your skin.

Deet can be used on an infant’s skin if they are 2 months or older.

When using DEET with small children Do Not apply it around their mouth, eyes, and hands or on broken skin.

Checking Your Home & Yard Environments for Ticks

Check wherever domestic animals roam both indoors and outdoors.

Dog beds, cracks, old furniture inside
Check around the outside of the home and apply insecticide around the house and yard
Some insecticides can be applied inside the home
Check for ticks on dogs and put a tick collar on them

Contact the SCAT Animal Control Office for more information on Controlling RMSF @ (928) 475-1585