

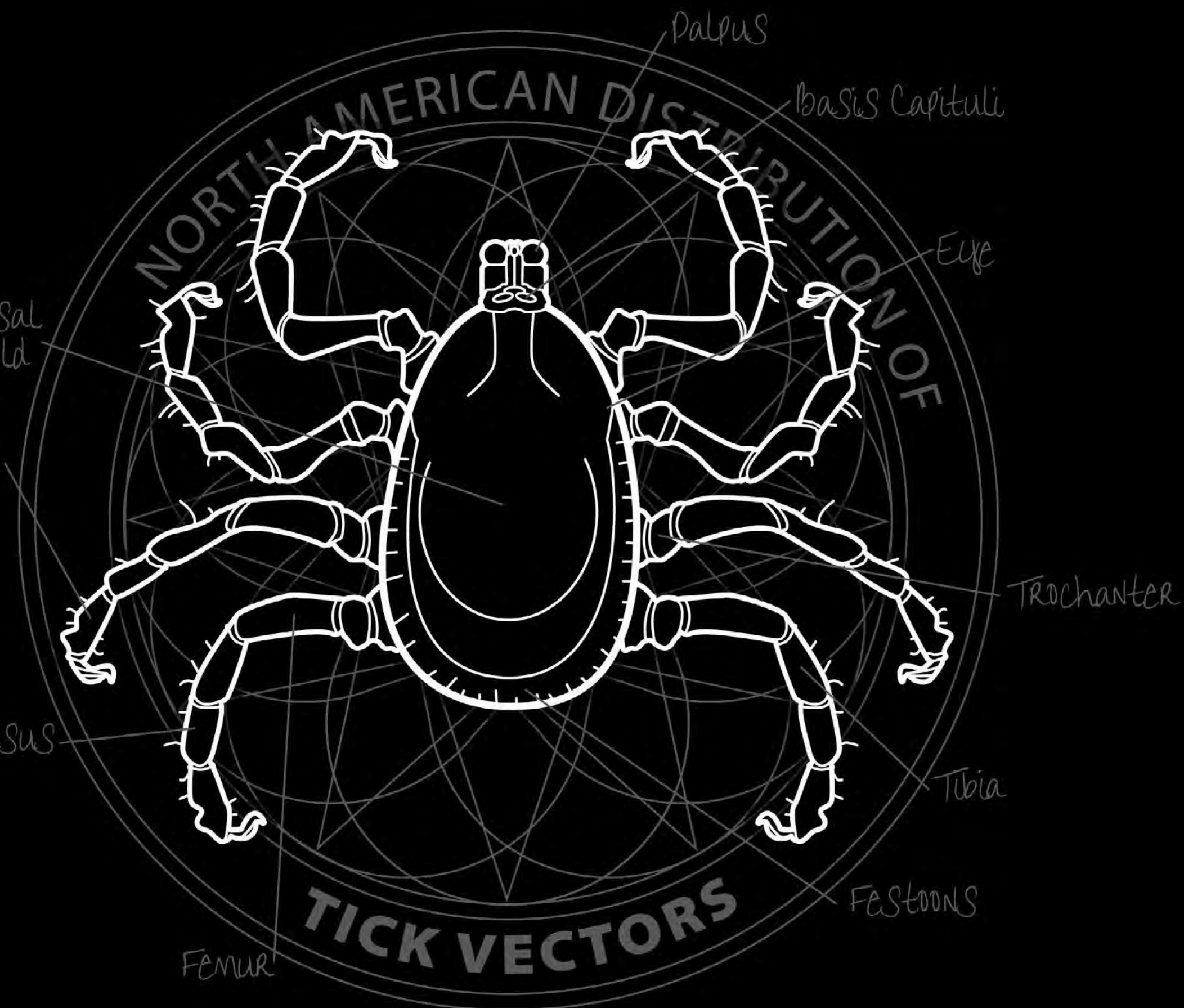
# Tick Control Around the Home

## Tick Environment

Ticks don't fly or jump. Rather, a tick climbs to the ends of blades of grass or weeds and waits with its front legs extended until it can grab onto a passing host.

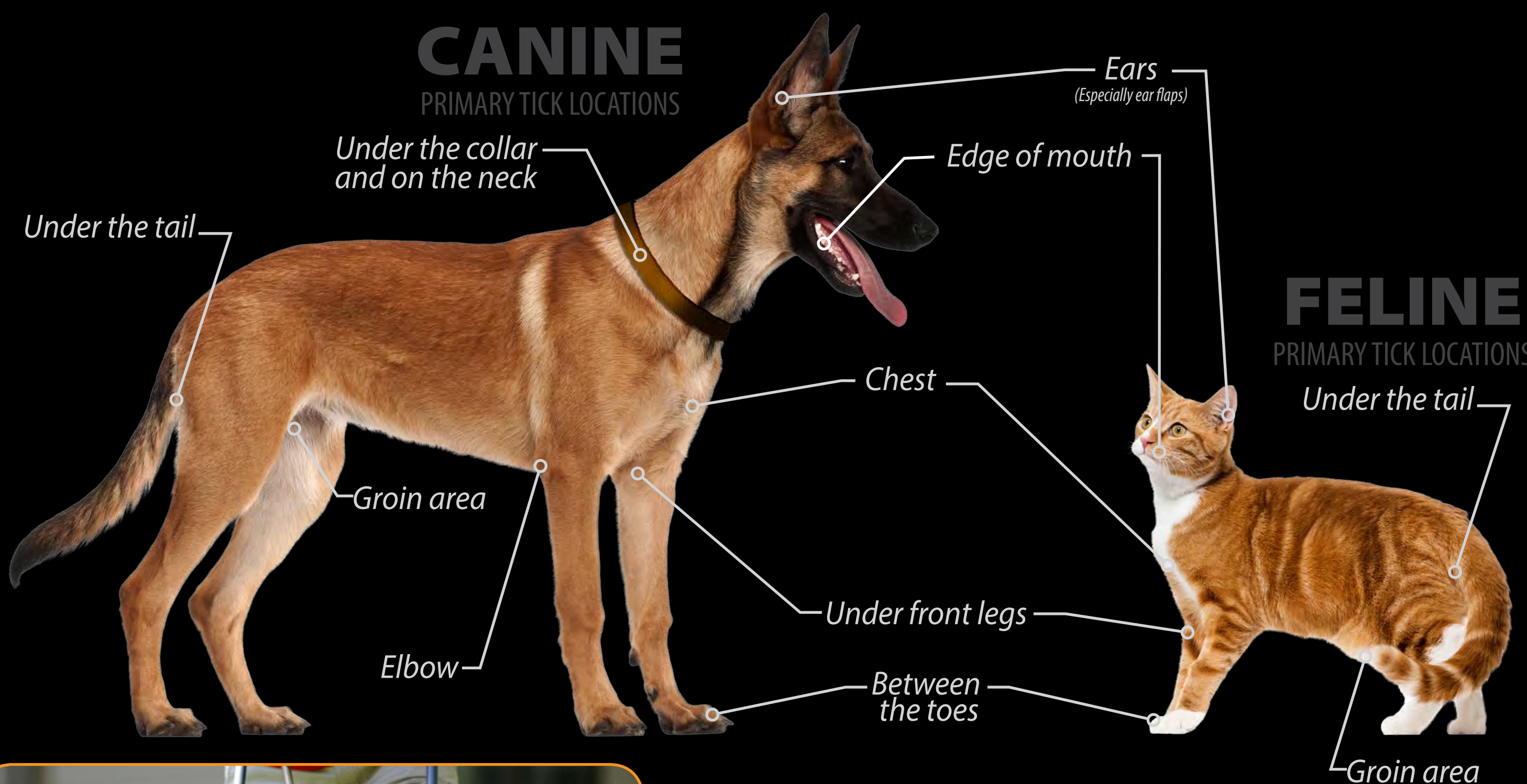
Ticks are most common in woodlands or overgrown places where the ground is covered with leaf litter, thick weeds, or tall grass. These are the areas where ticks are not only protected from the harsh and drying effects of the sun and wind, but also where their animal hosts (such as mice and deer) live.

Ticks may occasionally be found on well-mowed lawns, or even inside your home, as they can drop off of pets or other animals. Effective tick control requires: maintaining good landscape practices; conducting frequent tick checks of yourself, children, and pets; and the proper use of EPA registered insect repellents.



## Protect your pets from ticks

Ticks are drawn to dark, moist areas of your pet. Consult your veterinarian about products and treatments to protect your pets from ticks. Always check your pets for ticks after they have been in wooded or overgrown grassy areas including your backyard.



## Tick Control around the house



- 1. Tick habitat** Avoid wooded and brushy areas where deer, rodents, and ticks are common
- 2. Woodchip barrier** Use a 3 foot barrier of wood chips or rocks to separate the "tick zone" and rock walls from the lawn
- 3. Wood Pile** Keep wood pile on the wood chip barrier, away from the home
- 4. Lawn** Make sure lawn is mowed frequently to prevent ticks from migrating into often-used areas of the yard
- 5. Family Activity Area** Enjoy daily living activities such as gardening and outdoor play inside this perimeter
- 6. Gardens** Plant deer resistant crops. If desired, an 8 foot fence can keep deer out of the yard
- 7. Play sets** Keep play sets in the "tick safe zone" in sunny areas where ticks have difficulty surviving

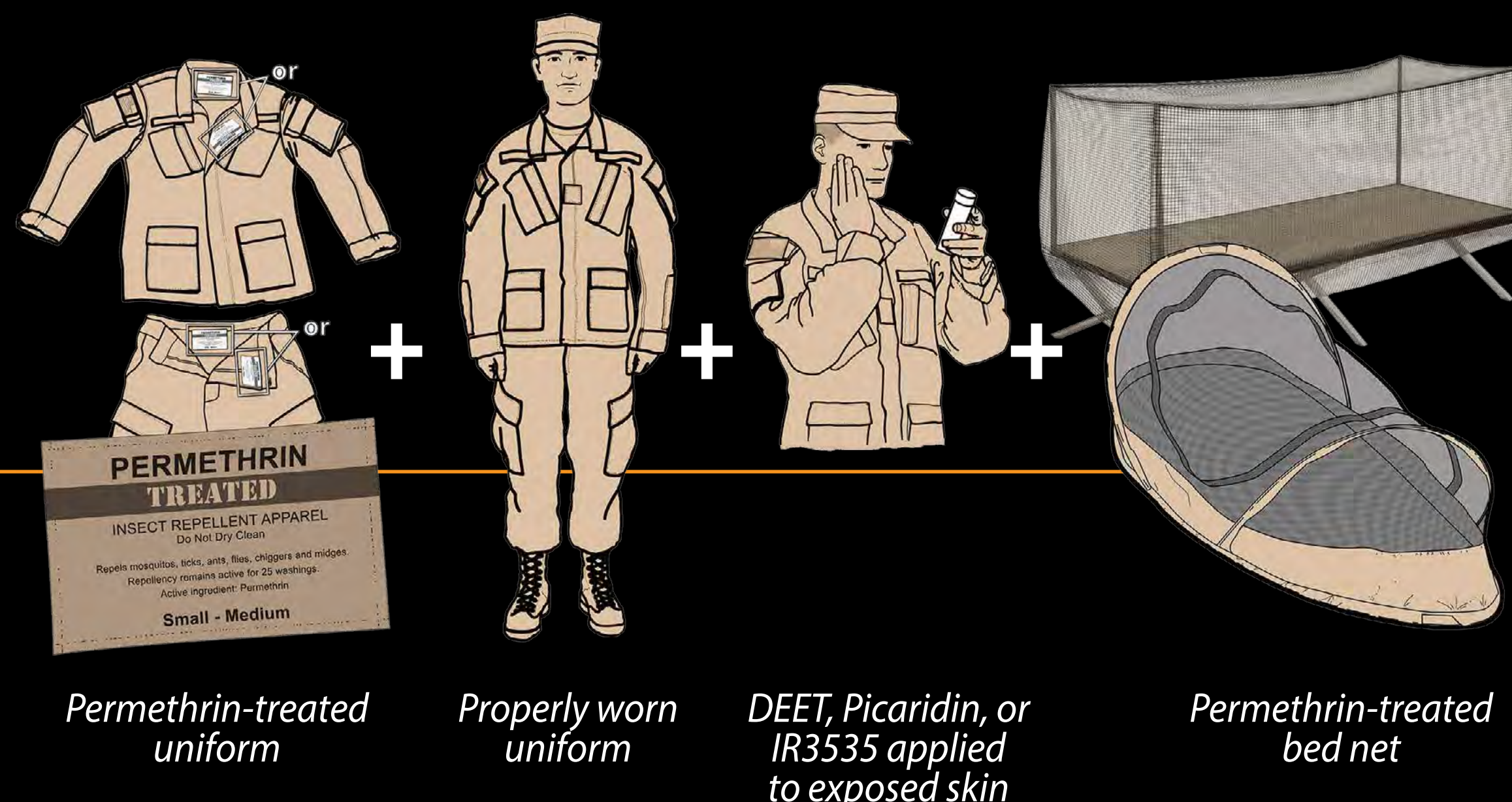
## Chemical control options

Application of pesticides for tick control is less effective than habitat modification techniques. Always, "Read the Label First!", when applying pesticides. Treat tick habitat with a product specifically labeled for controlling ticks. **On-post residents** should consult with Preventive Medicine staff to survey your area for ticks and determine if chemical control is needed. Applying pesticides should be considered only as a last resort. **If living off-post**, it is best to hire a professional pest control company.



## Personal protective measures

Despite your best efforts, keeping your yard entirely free of ticks and their animal hosts may be impossible. Personal protective measures are, therefore, very important. This includes wearing clothing that will prevent ticks from reaching your skin, such as long sleeve shirt and long pants. Tuck your shirt into your pants and your pant cuffs into your socks or boots. Use an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 on your exposed skin (i.e. skin that is not covered with clothing). Use permethrin on your clothing. Always FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS when applying repellents. Be sure to check your clothing and body carefully for ticks when you have been outdoors. See also the DOD Insect Repellent System.



## DOD INSECT REPELLENT SYSTEM

## Additional resources

APHC Fact Sheets

Protect Yourself from Tick-Borne Diseases

Tick Control Around the Home

Videos

How to Remove Attached Ticks

Reducing the Threat of Ticks Around Your Home

How to Prevent Tick Bites



Use your smart phone's camera to scan this QR code to locate more information

Contact the Entomological Sciences Division for more information on ticks, tick-borne diseases, and prevention at 410-436-3613 or email at usarmy.apg.medcom-aphc.mbx.pesticide-hotline@mail.mil