

**5 STEPS TO A**

**FEAR FREE TICK CHECK**



**1** Complete a quick visual scan of your dog for any creepy crawlers before returning inside from a walk or hike.



**2** Create a relaxing experience for your dog by:

- **Choosing the right time:** Wait until your pet is calm and relaxed.
- **Preparing the right environment:** Choose a nonslip surface and utilize calming pheromones and music.
- **Using the right rewards:** Go with high-value treats, toys, or praise.



**3** Begin by gently massaging and petting your dog to disguise your tick exam as something your dog already loves: your gentle touch. Include the use of a touch gradient, starting at the dog's shoulders or chest and gently gliding to other more sensitive areas, keeping hands on the dog continuously. Carefully check from nose to tail, parting the hair/fur to see the skin as you go. Don't forget to check key hiding places in each body region:



**Head** (ears, lips, jowls)

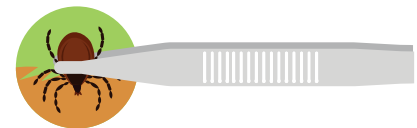


**Body** (under the collar, under arms, groin)



**Legs** (between toes)

**4** If a tick is found, use a pair of tweezers as close to the insertion point as possible and pull straight out.



**5** Keep the rewards coming! Rewards should be given throughout the tick check after each body part touched. Remember to not force the dog to be touched where they are not comfortable.

