

Tick Testing – to be absolutely sure!

– not only for us, but also for dogs.

The specialised laboratory for tick-borne diseases in the Borrelia Centrum Augsburg (BCA) can examine ticks fast and save.

We offer 4 different tests (PCR) in our test package:

1. **Borrelia**
2. **Rickettsia**
3. **Babesia** (very important for dogs!)
4. **Ehrlichia**

Total Cost: **79,- €** (Euro) excl. 19% VAT (= incl. VAT **€94.01** Euro)

Dead ticks can also be tested. Just stick the tick (or the parts that you have of the tick) to a piece of adhesive tape and attach the tape on a piece of paper. Put the paper with the attached tick in an envelop and send it to us with the completely filled in and signed laboratory order form.



Ixodes ricinus
(Tick)

3 days after the tick arrived in our laboratory you will receive a written report with the results of the tick testing and the invoice.

Note:

- We only offer the combined analysis (4 tests). A testing for Lyme disease only is not enough anymore according to our experience. The risk of co-infections has increased extremely and this is important to decide on a prophylaxis (medical prevention) in case of a positive result of the test.
- Unfortunately, health insurance companies do not cover the costs for this test.
- Ticks can be very small, but already infected. A tick develops from an egg to a larva and then to a nymph (young tick). The nymph is a hermaphrodite (male and female), which can either develop to a female or male adult tick. Even small ticks can transmit bacteria.
- If the tick is tested positive for *Borrelia* and/or other co-infections, you can get advice from the Borrelia Centrum Augsburg.

Why should the tick be tested?

It is commonly known that ticks can transmit dangerous infectious diseases. Usually, only **TBE** (Tick-Borne-Encephalitis) is mentioned here; there is an effective vaccine for TBE and there are only about 300 infections per year in Germany.

The risks of Lyme disease and other co-infections that can also result from a tick bite are largely underestimated; there is **no effective vaccine** against these infections and in case of a tick bite it is recommended to start preventive measures (prophylaxis) very early. This is usually done by a doctor who prescribes special antibiotics.

Germany, Switzerland and Austria, as well as many other European countries have **regions that bear great risks of Borrelia-infected ticks!** Between 10% to regionally over 50% of all nymphs and female adult ticks are infected with *Borrelia*. Research studies have shown that ticks also transmit other pathogens besides *Borrelia*.

According to a research project done by the Health Department of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, the infection transmission rate of ticks, which contain *Borrelia*, is ca. 25%. Therefore, it is recommended that a tick should first be tested for *Borrelia* when removed from the body.

New research studies have shown that the risk of co-infections increased dramatically. A recent study (January 2009) of ticks in Brandenburg (county in the North-East of Germany) has shown that Rickettsia are not rare in ticks. The Ixodes ricinus tick showed 13% Borrelia and 10% Rickettsia helvetica infections. In case of the Dermacentor reticulatus tick it was found that only 6% were infected by Borrelia, but 50% with Rickettsia.

You can find more information about the spatial distribution, the meaning of co-infections and how to proceed with a tick bite on our website online at www.b-c-a.de / Services / Tick Testing.

Please fill in the laboratory order form below and send to the following address:

Postal Address

B-C-A Borreliose Centrum Augsburg
 Betriebs GmbH & Co. KG
 - Laborbereich -
 Morellstrasse 33
 86159 Augsburg
 Germany

Tick Testing – Laboratory Order Form

Laboratory Order Form for the following 4 tests in a package deal:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Borrelia Detection | 3. Babesia Detection |
| 2. Rickettsia Detection | 4. Ehrlichia Detection |

Total Cost: **79,-- €** excl. 19% VAT (= incl. VAT **€94.01** Euro)

Please stick the tick (or the parts that you have of the tick) to a piece of adhesive tape and attach the tape on a piece of paper. Put the paper with the attached tick in an envelop and send it to us with the completely filled in and signed laboratory order form. Note: Dead ticks can also be tested.

Personal Details

Name:	First Name:
Street:	Post Code/City:
Date of Birth: Email:	Date of bite / Duration of bite (estimate):
Telephone: Fax:	Where did the bite occur? (city / region)

Payment Agreement:

I give permission to the B-C-A Borreliose Centrum Augsburg Betriebs GmbH & Co. KG to process the laboratory order form and laboratory tests. I am aware that the costs will not be covered by my health insurance company. I agree to make the payment for the laboratory tick testing as soon as I receive the invoice.

Place, Date

Signature of Person submitting the Laboratory Order Form