

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING PHOTOS TO SUBMIT TO ETICK.CA

The identification of ticks based on a photo can be difficult since they are often small and/or engorged with blood. A good view of diagnostic features and a crisp image are therefore essential for the identification process.

→ **Ticks can be quickly killed/ immobilized by being placed in a freezer for 5–10 minutes. This step is not necessary but can make it easier to take a photo and send specimens in the mail.**

Recommended devices for taking photos:

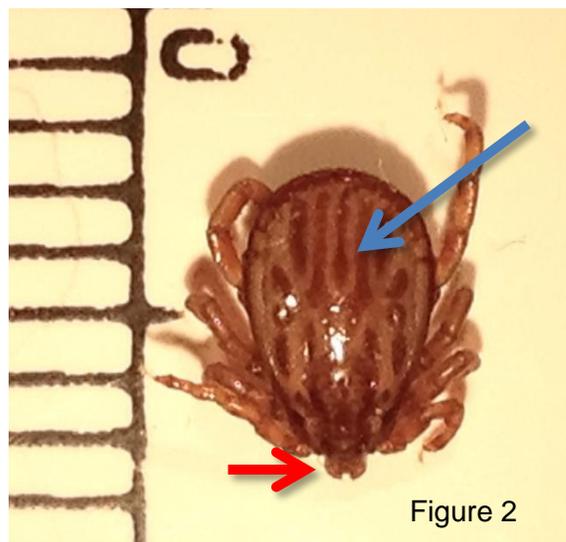
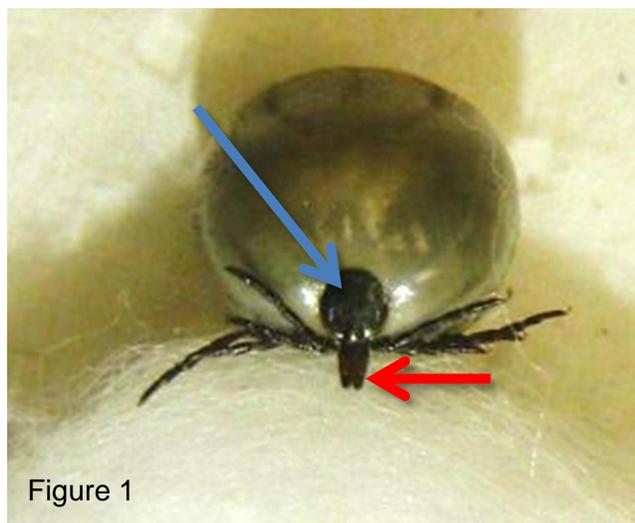
1. Digital camera with a macro mode (or lens).
2. Smartphone (e.g. iPhone 4, Samsung Galaxy S5 + other more recent models).

NOTE: Tablets (e.g. iPad, Samsung Galaxy, Surface) are often equipped with lower quality cameras than smartphones, hence images may be of poor quality.

Instructions for taking photos:

i. Lighting: Bright lighting is very important for taking close-ups. The tick should be photographed in daylight (outdoors or by the window) or placed directly under a lamp.

ii. Orientation of the specimen and scale: The tick should be oriented in such way that its back, dorsal shield (blue arrow), the head and palps (red arrow) are clearly visible (Figures 1–2). If the tick is heavily engorged, placing it on a cotton ball or paper (Figure 1) can help. In males (Figure 2), the dorsal shield covers the entire surface of the back. If possible, place a ruler or a coin near the specimen for measurement purposes (Figure 2). A photo of the underside is also nice to have, but only if your camera has a good macro lens.



iii. Camera settings: If available, set the camera to macro mode (often indicated by a flower icon). Zoom in and then get as close to the tick as possible (7–15 cm, depending on the camera; avoid blocking the light) while keeping the image clear and in focus. Taking several photos will allow you to select the best one(s) for submission.

iv. Preparing the photo for submission: If possible, crop the photos before submitting them so that the tick takes up at least a quarter of the image. **NOTE:** Digital photos cannot be larger than 5 megabytes (5 MB) each. You can submit up to three photos per specimen.

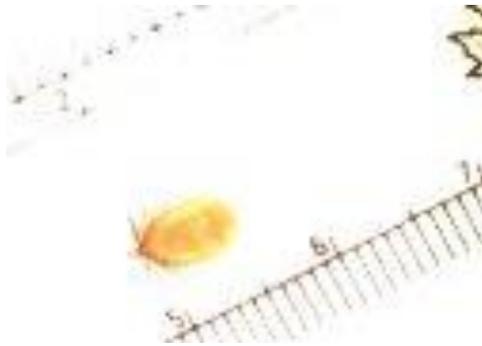
(see next page for examples)

Examples of good photos taken with an iPhone 4S:

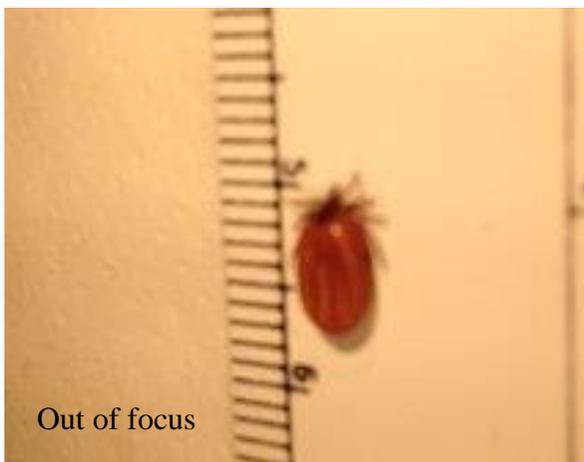


Examples of bad photos:

Over exposed



Wrong angle



Out of focus



The dorsal shield and palps are not completely visible