



Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc

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Mission

Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc is a non-profit organization formed to improve the recognition, treatment, control, and understanding of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

History

TIC-NC was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of North Carolina in May 2005 by several North Carolina residents whose lives were negatively affected by tick-borne infections. In March of 2007 we were granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by IRS.

Goals

Educate the public, medical and veterinary professionals, school health nurses, and the public health system about tick-borne diseases in North Carolina, including risk factors, emerging infections, and prevention.

Foster an enhanced public health response.

Encourage state public health agencies to conduct ongoing surveillance of the prevalences of tick-borne

BIANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND DONORS Winter 2009

Dear TIC-NC Members and Supporters,

We hope you enjoy this 2007 - 2009 Biennial report. We have been operating now for over five years and are very pleased with our progress.

Purpose of this report

1. To let you know of our [accomplishments in the last two years.](#)
2. To get your [updated contact information.](#)
3. To ask you and others you know who have had a tick-borne infection to fill out our [Case Registry form](#) if you haven't already. These are very important for our public health work. (Do not fill one out if you have previously. A form is available on line if you prefer that method.)

Please use the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope to update your contact information and case registry if applicable, and to make a donation if you wish.

Major Activities and Accomplishments 2008

- Set up Website registration, Registry Form, and Click & Pay for donations.
- Attended/presented at vector-borne disease meetings- St. Petersburg, Baltimore, Duke Forest officials, and Duke University Medical Center.
- Met with CDC scientists about Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness (STARI) at the CDC, Ft Collins, CO, and local participants with the CDC STARI research project.
- Participated in reviewing county grant applications for tick prevention work.
- Held a booth at Shakori Hills Festival of Music and Dance and ongoing booths at the Pittsboro Farmer's Market.
- Supported Pittsboro's efforts to control the deer population.
- TIC-NC featured in article in the Chapel Hill Magazine.
- Held numerous meetings with top North Carolina public health officials.
- Defeated state budget attempts to cut the tick research and tick disease prevention funds we helped secure in 2007 for Public Health Pest Management Section, Division of Environmental Health, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Proposed a state fatality review for all tick-borne disease deaths. No action has been taken on this.
- Documented one case of an *I scapularis* nymph (the Lyme disease vector) biting a person in North Carolina (standard scientific opinion is that these ticks do not bite people in the south).
- Redid our display boards for booths and created one for children.
- Reviewed state tick brochures and submitted comments.
- Held a private meeting with Dr. Ben Beard, Vector-borne Diseases, CDC, and several board members (documents available on request).
- Participated in UNC research meetings among persons interested in tick issues in our state.
- Participated in many meetings with state public health and the CDC regarding their new definition of endemicity for Lyme disease in a county and the reporting requirements for human LD. We feel the definitions are overly strict.

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www.tic-nc.org



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infections in (a) at-risk populations and (b) ticks and vectors; and make this information available to the public and the medical sector periodically.

Develop and maintain a registry of persons with tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

Encourage the public health sector to identify and characterize the newly emerging tick-borne infections in the southeast.

Work with the public health sector to require all tick-borne infections be reported at both county and state levels.

Staffing and Volunteers

TIC-NC remains a volunteer organization. We continue to need volunteers for special projects and to serve on the board.

Membership

We have approximately 250 members. We need to increase our numbers. Everyone can help by getting friends and neighbors to join.

Funding and expenditures

We are dependent entirely on donations at this point. Many of you have given generously. We have not had sufficient resources yet to mount a fund-raising effort or apply for grants. We hope to do so in the future and welcome people to help who have experience. Printing our brochure is one of our major expenses.

2009

- Conducted frequent interaction with the person hired by state Pest Management to collect ticks and work on other tick-related activities for the state.
- Had a booth at several Pittsboro street fairs and a booth at the Shakori Hills Spring Music and Dance Festival with help from the NC Lyme Disease Foundation; reached many people.
- Collected many ticks locally, some for Pest Management, some for private testing.
- Monitored the state recurring appropriation funds for tick activities. Worked extremely hard to prevent cuts to the tick budget in a tight budget year. Members testified before a state legislative committee and at a public hearing on the budget. Efforts were successful.
- Participated as a planner and attendee for the Regional Conference to Assess Research and Outreach Needs in Integrated Pest Management to Reduce the Incidence of Tick-borne Diseases in the Southeastern United States, held at the CDC in Atlanta.
- Had article published on ticks and tick-borne infections in the NC Medical Board's quarterly newsletter for physicians and physician assistants. (http://www.ncmedboard.org/articles/detail/ticks_in_north_carolina_increasing_disease_and_confusion/)
- Hosted a tick-borne disease microbiologist from the CDC for a day, meeting with people who had contracted Lyme disease locally.
- Reviewed presentations for state medical schools on tick-borne diseases developed by the state Division of Public Health.
- Provided brochures (English) and small cards (Spanish) for several tick-related state Pest Management outreach events.
- Attended the NC Non-profit Association Public Policy Forum.
- Presented evidence of human attachment by *I scapularis* ticks (the Lyme disease vector) in the south to a meeting of the NC Vector-borne Disease Task Force.

On-going activities

- Publish quarterly newsletters on our website and send via email to our members.
- Answer numerous tick-related calls and emails from the public.
- Continue updating and distributing educational brochure.
- Participate in media—television appearances, writing letters to the editor, regular articles, and op-ed articles.
- Participate in the state Vector-borne Disease Task Force meetings.
- Attend and/or speak at local area meetings, public and private, related to ticks.
- Website updates-- our website has had over 239,785 requests and 65,484 pages downloaded since 2005! Over 75,000 requests were in 2009.

We will continue to work hard to improve the health and safety of our citizens with regard to ticks and tick-borne infections. We welcome your help and ideas. Thank you for your interest, commitment, and financial support.

Your TIC-NC Board

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