

Dear Veterinary Colleague,

Do you practice in Howard, Harford or Anne Arundel Counties? If so, we hope you will help us recruit pet owners for an exciting project we are conducting through November 12, 2017. A recent study showed that pet owners are more likely to find ticks on themselves as compared to non-pet owners – but, we do not know the specific activities or behaviors that put people at risk for finding ticks.

Our project invites dog and cat owners who reside in Howard, Harford, and Anne Arundel Counties and are at least 18 years of age to complete an online survey. Participants will receive a \$10 gift card after answering questions about their pets and their interactions and activities with their pets.

What are we asking you to do? If you are willing to help us, we'll supply you with recruitment postcards that you can make available to your clients in your reception area or examination rooms. There is no expectation that you or your staff will answer questions about the project or "sell" the project to your clients. That's it! For your help, we will provide you tick identification cards that you can use to educate your clients about medically important ticks in Maryland.

If you are interested in helping, or want to learn more, please contact us by email or phone (MDH.pets@Maryland.gov or 410-767-5649).

Thanks in advance,

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