

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

"Nothing purchased can come close to the renewed sense of gratitude for having family and friends."

- Courtland Milloy

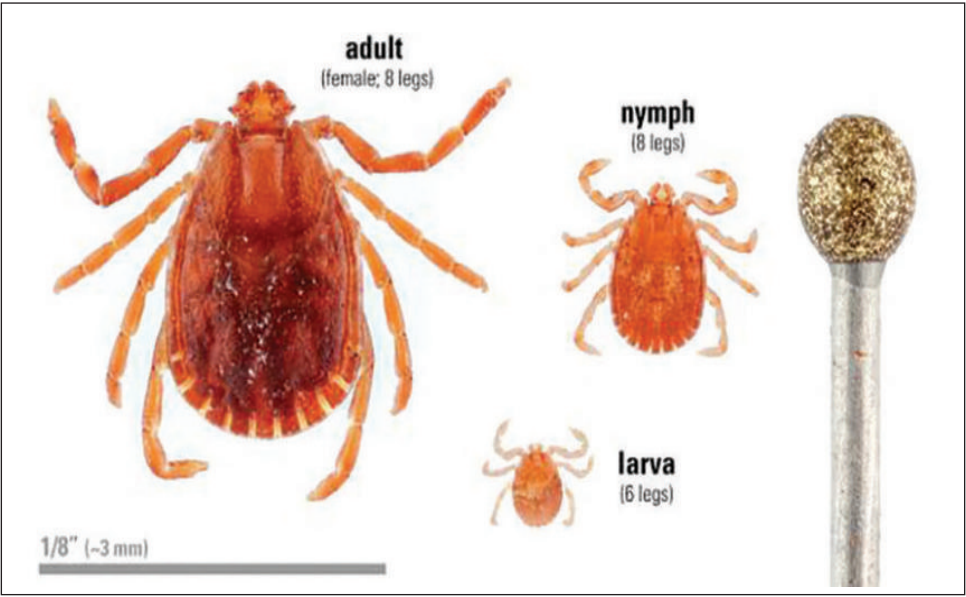
# Enter this season's Furry Friends best dressed holiday photo contest by December 16

Put a spotlight on your festively dressed furry friend and enter his or her photo in the *Donalsonville News*' Happy Holidays Furry Friends Photo Contest.

Each entry received will appear in the December 23rd Christmas Edition. The winner, to be determined by an online voting process, will be announced in the December 30th edition. The deadline for

entries is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16. All entries must include pet's name and owner's name, along with owner's contact information. Entries received after 4 p.m. will not be accepted.

Send entries to [david@donalsonvillenews.com](mailto:david@donalsonvillenews.com) or drop your photo by the newspaper's office located at 216 Cherry Street in downtown Donalsonville.



## Insect of the Month: Asian Longhorn Tick

Down here in the deep south we are all fairly familiar with the many ticks that seem to be everywhere. Most people can identify a dog tick or a lone star tick with no issues. Unfortunately for Georgians, there's a new, deadlier tick in town: the asian longhorn tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). This tick is invasive to the United States and Australia by way of southeast asia. The way this invasive pest lives, reproduces and the diseases it carries are all reasons for major concern.

I would not be a very good entomologist if I did not start out by saying that ticks, including this one, are not insects. Ticks fall under the class of Arachnida, the same as spiders. Arachnids differ from insects in many ways but the main two are they have eight legs instead of six, and only have two body segments, instead of three. Similar to some insects though, they do parasitize other animals to sustain their selves. The bloodmeals they uptake feeds them, but also causes them to detach to find a new host. That means each longhorn tick will have three hosts in its lifetime, one for the larvae, nymph and adult



**Ag Update**  
**Cody H. Bowling**  
Seminole County  
ANR Agent  
[Cody.Bowling@uga.edu](mailto:Cody.Bowling@uga.edu) or  
[extension.uga.edu/Seminole](http://extension.uga.edu/Seminole)

stages.

There are several factors that separate these ticks from other parasites and ticks, but their reproduction is by far the most important. Asian longhorn ticks can reproduce without ever mating. The females can lay eggs through a process known as parthenogenetic reproduction. This means that females can lay eggs that are genetic clones of themselves without ever meeting a male. This is how huge infestations have occurred all around the world.

What's worse is that these clones can feed, reproduce and carry disease just like any other tick.

These ticks carry an array of diseases that can hurt both humans and livestock, as well as companion animals. Lab testing on adult asian longhorn ticks has shown the positive transmission of both rocky mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. These pests also carry a variant of the *Theileria orientalis*, a bloodborne parasite that causes anemia in cattle. In combination with this parasite, the ticks can multiply rapidly and have been found in clusters of 1,000 individuals leading to severe blood loss and death. There is a possibility for dozens more diseases to be transmitted that we have yet to have research on.

The asian longhorn tick is a new pest to Georgia and the United States. Since its arrival in 2010, it has made its way across the northeast and now the southeast. If you notice a strange tick on your animals, bring it by the extension office. These ticks have only been found in north Georgia so far, but it is only a matter of time until they reach our county.

20% Off

All metal items, bird houses and cemetery pots

10% Off

All Plants (Excluding citrus)

You could win a Propane Griddle!

Register each time you make a purchase of \$50

Open Monday - Friday 8-5:30 and Saturday 8-12:30

Over 40 Years Continuous Service

**Alf's Farm & Garden,**

229-524-2491 Corner of First Street and N. Wiley

Give the gift that keeps giving

all year long!

Your News

Your Community

Your Newspaper since 1916!

Donalsonville News

Wrapped, shipped and delivered 52 weeks a year!

\$25

One-Year Local Subscription

Seminole and adjoining Counties

\$30

One-Year Non Local Subscription

Everywhere outside of local area

Wrap one up today!

Call 229-524-2343, mail to P.O. Box 338 or log on to [donalsonvillenews.com](http://donalsonvillenews.com)

Each subscription package includes

FREE access to [donalsonvillenews.com](http://donalsonvillenews.com)

Choose your package and our elves will put your name on the good list!

Donalsonville News

YOUR news YOUR Community YOUR Newspaper

Donalsonville News

216 Cherry Street P.O. Box 338 Donalsonville, Georgia 39845 (229) 524-2343 donalsonvillenews.com

Seminole County 4-H

Peanuts

Honey Roasted

or

Oil Roasted

only

\$5 per can

Seminole County 4-H Annual Peanut Sale

Contact a 4-H member or call the office to order

Orders and money are due December 1, 2021

Orders will be ready for pickup on December 8, 2021

At the Seminole County Extension Office

426 North Friendship Avenue,

Donalsonville, GA 39845

(229) 524-2326