

Etiological Agent: *Rickettsia rickettsii*

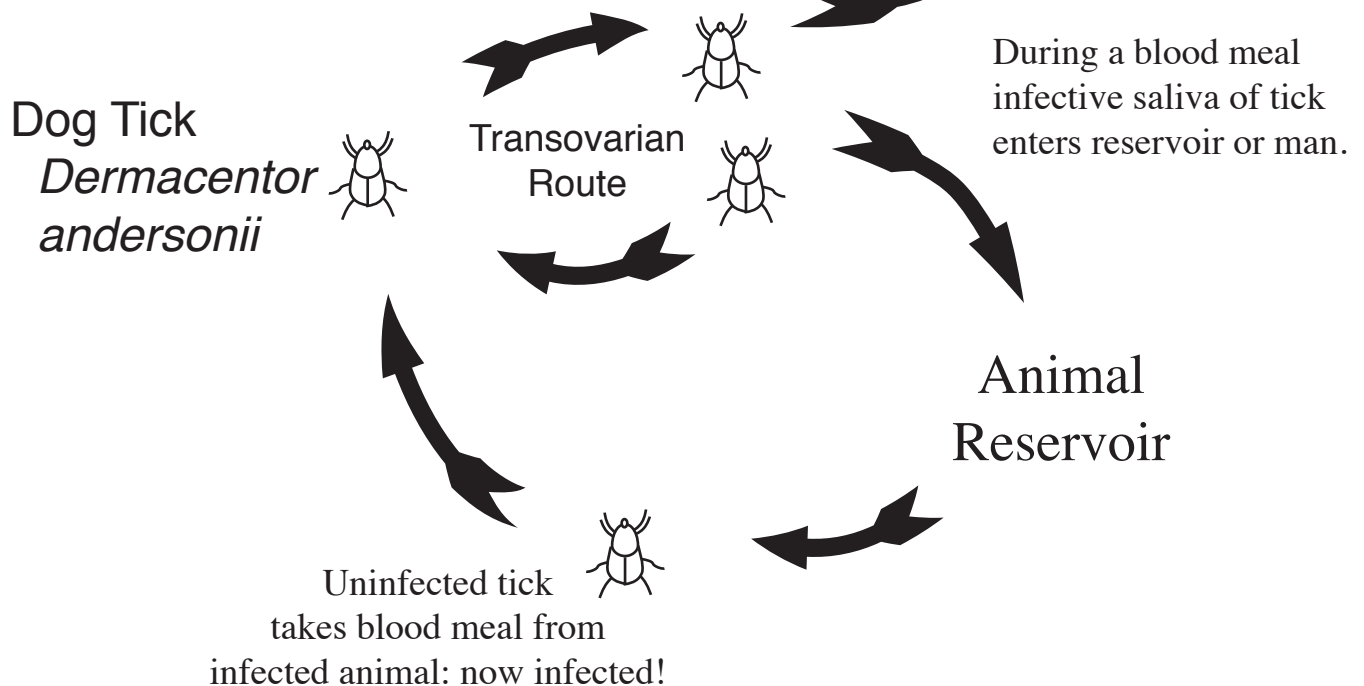
Disease: Rocky Mountain Fever

Reservoir: Ticks and animals (including domesticated dogs)

Preferred host: Dog Tick, *Dermacentor andersonii*

Means of transfer: Tick bite and transovarian route

Symptoms (man):  
fever, headache,  
and rash first on  
palms and soles  
of feet



*Rickettsia rickettsii* is primarily a parasite of the dog tick. And stock reservoir is maintained not only within the community of ticks but more importantly, within wild animals. Transfer between species occurs due to tick bites as the agent will have produced a deceminated infection that includes the salivary glands of the tick. Man is considered an incidental host who will acquire a state of disease due to the infectious agent.

Virulence differs in various localities, undoubtedly due to different strains. Untreated disease in Montana has associated with it a 90% mortality rate. On the east coast it is as little as 5%.

Tick rejuvenation time for the dog tick is 4 hours. During this time the tick can be removed without fear of contracting the organism.