



# Superior Animal Hospital & Boarding Suites, Ltd.

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## Lyme Disease Recheck Information

We will retest your dog for Lyme Disease if it previously tested positive. We typically retest 6 months after the initial diagnosis and treatment.

The blood test taken will give us a quantitative level of antibodies to Lyme infection. We get the results back in 7 days.

If your dog tests **negative or has a low level of antibodies (<30)**, we will assume that we have either eliminated the infection completely or reduced it to a level that poses little risk for developing any further symptoms. We should plan to retest in 6-12 months at the annual retest date. This will check for flare-ups of an existing infection or a re-infection.

If your dog still tests **positive (= or > 30)**, there could be one of 2 explanations:

1. The infection was not completely cleared with the first course of antibiotics, or
2. Your dog was re-infected.

The following protocol is recommended for positive tests:

1. Retreat with a course of antibiotics (**Doxycycline**) for 28 days.
2. Booster the **Lyme vaccine** if not administered within the last 6 months.
3. Use strict **tick control** with Frontline Topspot throughout the entire potential tick season (typically March through November).
4. **Retest** again in 6 months.

Lyme infection may be difficult to clear completely. More severe infections can take years to resolve. The goal with treatment is to reduce the infection to a very low level (<30, a negative test result), where the risk for developing symptoms later on is very low.