

Proclamation

Lyme & Other Tick-Borne Diseases/Conditions Awareness Month

Whereas, outdoor activities including walking, hiking, camping, backpacking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, golfing, gardening, ranching, wood splitting, natural resource management of our vast public lands, and travel for outdoor recreation pursuits puts Salida residents in closer contact with grassy and wooded areas that may be inhabited or infested by ticks which are carried by both wild and domestic animals; and

Whereas, tick bites can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases such as Lyme disease (CDC estimated 476,000 new cases annually), Babesiosis, Bartonellosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Colorado Tick Fever, and others resulting in fever, rash, or flu-like symptoms; and can also result in conditions such as tick paralysis or alpha-gal meat allergy; and

Whereas, Lyme and other tick-borne diseases/conditions may affect the brain, heart, eyes, joints, and other body organs and may mimic many other diseases making diagnosis more difficult; and

Whereas, the rate of infection in Colorado may be underreported for all tick-borne diseases due to the difficulty of diagnosis; and

Whereas, when Lyme and other tick-borne diseases/conditions are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, may result in severe illness, disability, or death; and

Whereas, evaluation of veterinary data demonstrates an annually increasing occurrence of Lyme, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis in Colorado dogs; and

Whereas, support group participation for Colorado patients afflicted by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases/conditions is growing annually; and

Whereas, the best protection against tick-borne diseases is prevention and education, use of insect repellant, performance of frequent tick checks, showering immediately upon returning home from outdoor pursuits, proper removal of embedded ticks, prompt diagnosis; and early, adequate treatment.

Now, therefore, the City of Salida does hereby proclaim and declare April as Lyme & Other Tick-Borne Diseases/Conditions Awareness Month.

Mayor Dan Shore

Date: April 18, 2023