



City of  
Santa Rosa

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is spread by certain arthropods, primarily ticks, and is a significant public health problem in Sonoma County; and

**WHEREAS**, if untreated, Lyme disease, in its later stages, can result in neurological disorders including, but not limited to, Chronic and Severe Fatigue, Encephalitis, Meningitis, Memory Loss, Dementia and Seizures, Severe Arthritis, Cardiac Dysfunction, Vision Loss, Gastrointestinal Disorders, Paralysis, Death and Stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Sonoma County had 11 reported cases in humans and between 660 and 1,250 reported cases in dogs, as reported by the Companion Animal Parasite Council. The CDC states that only 10% of cases meeting its surveillance criteria are actually reported; thus, using this estimate, at least 110 new cases of Lyme disease may have occurred in Sonoma County in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of contracting a tick-borne disease is, unlike the Northeast region, year-round in California and there are at least 9 other tick-borne diseases endemic to Sonoma County (Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Bartonellosis, Relapsing Fever, Rickettsiosis – R. Phillipi, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, and Colorado Tick Fever); and

**WHEREAS**, Nymphal ticks, which are the size of a poppy seed, are most likely to cause Borrelia Infection. They can attach in about 10 minutes and transmit pathogens in about 6 hours, and occasionally can transmit pathogens immediately. While ticks are active in California year-round, Nymphal ticks are most active in April and May; and

**WHEREAS**, although Lyme disease has received increased public attention in other parts of the country in the last decade, it is still rarely diagnosed in a timely manner in California and is frequently misdiagnosed. It is much more problematic to treat once it has spread and caused serious, permanent and life-threatening conditions. While Lyme disease can be difficult to treat, it can be prevented if certain precautionary steps are taken, including wearing clothing treated with Permethrin while in tick habitat and using insect repellent; and

**WHEREAS**, increased public awareness can help the County to combat this public health problem by encouraging the prevention of the disease and ensuring its early detection and proper treatment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, John Sawyer, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of March to be

**WEST COAST LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**



Mayor John Sawyer

March 19, 2016