

Removing ticks

TICKED OFF. A simple plastic tool called TICKED OFF removes ticks, including the mouth parts (Figure 15-31). Crawling or embedded ticks are removed completely, in one motion, while the bowl contains the tick for disposal. The tool can be used in any direction to remove ticks from the front, back, or side. TICKED OFF is held vertically. Applying slight pressure downward on the skin, push the tick remover forward so it surrounds the tick on three sides, the small part of the "V" framing the tick. Continuous sliding motion of the notched area releases the tick. These inexpensive tools are now generally available.

Another technique for removing ticks is described in the box below. *Ixodid* ticks are difficult to remove because they cement their mouth parts into the skin (Figure 15-32). Mechanical removal may or may not remove the cement. If no cement, or "fleshlike" material, is attached to the mouth parts after extraction, the cement is still in the skin and attempts should be made to remove it to prevent subsequent irritation and infection. Ticks continue to salivate after

Figure 15-31

TICKED OFF. A plastic tool used to extract ticks. The entire tick, including the mouth parts, is removed.

Figure 15-32

This tick was improperly extracted by grasping and pulling on the body. A large piece of tissue was torn away by the embedded mouth parts

