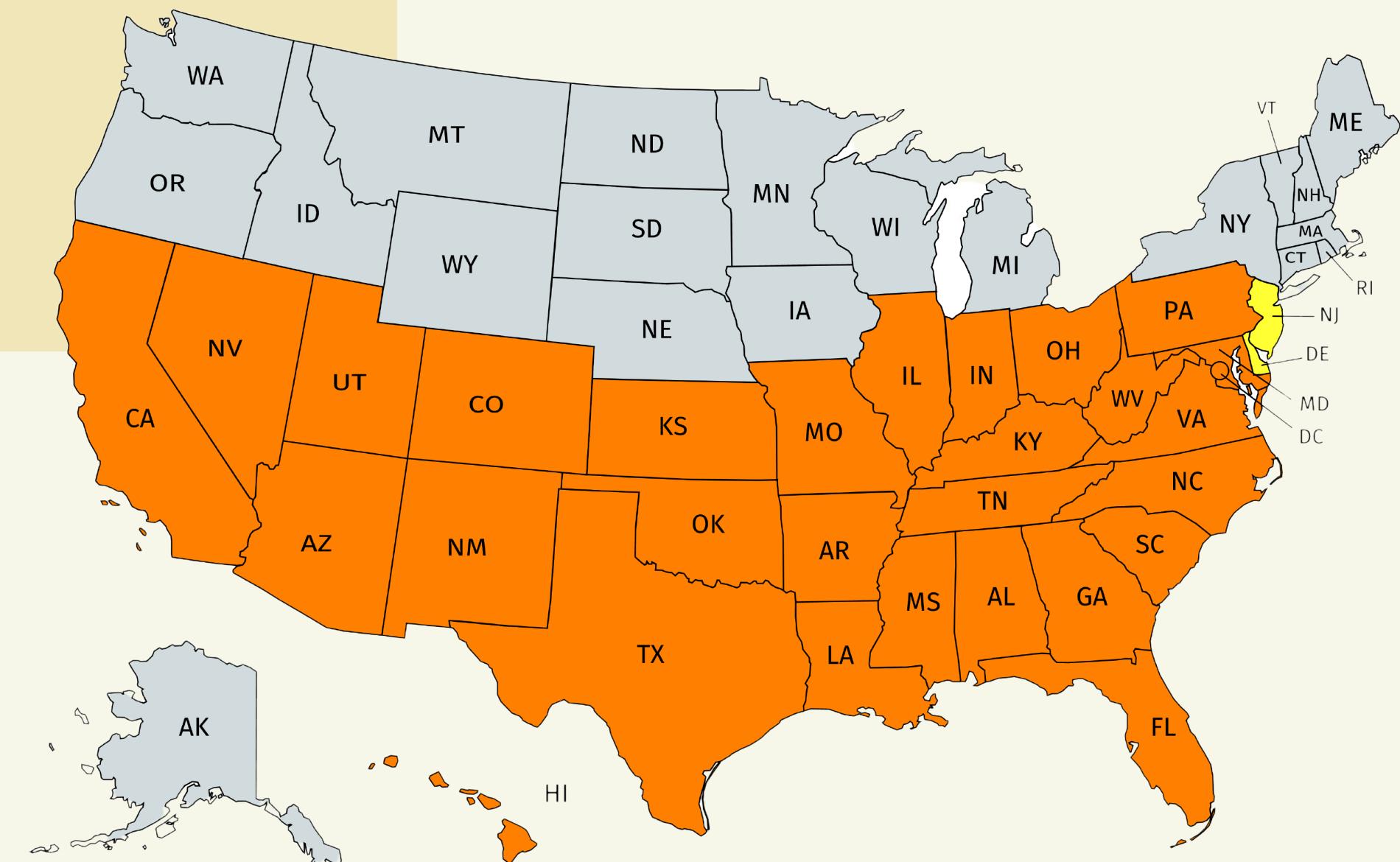
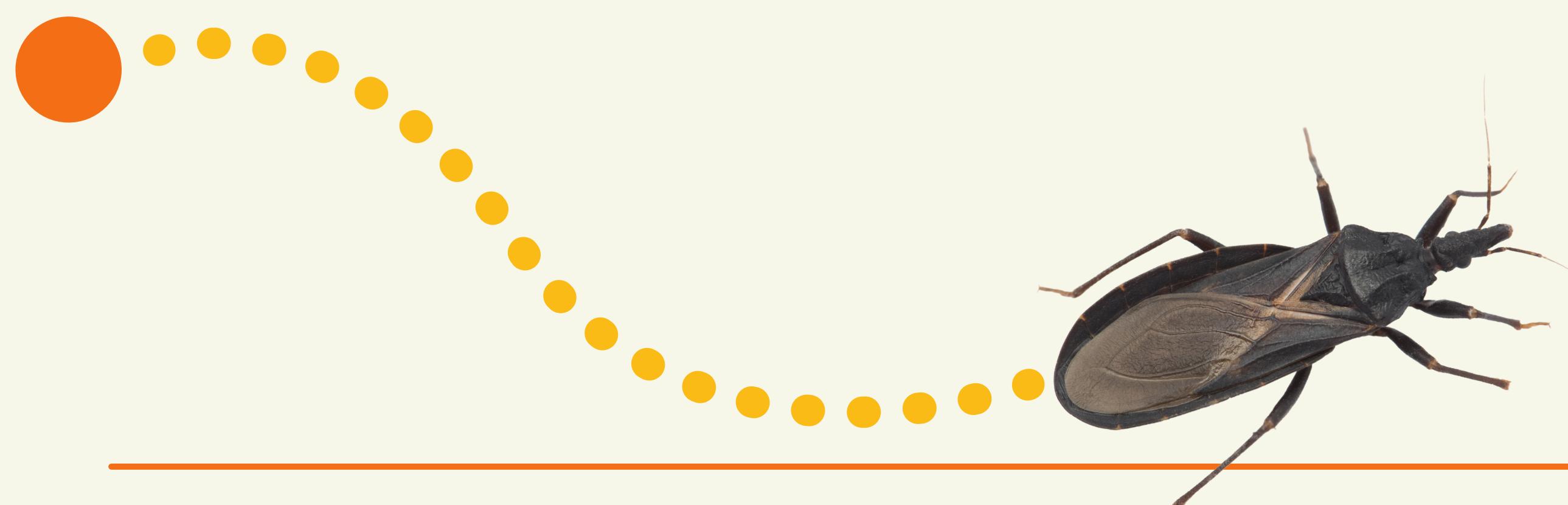


CHAGAS DISEASE: IS YOUR DOG AT RISK?

Spread by kissing bugs, Chagas is an emerging disease that is currently concentrated in the southern half of the United States, indicated in orange and yellow on the map.



WHAT IS CHAGAS DISEASE?

Chagas disease is caused by the parasite **Trypanosoma cruzi**, and is spread by triatomine bugs, also known as **kissing bugs**.

The symptoms of Chagas can easily be mistaken for other illnesses and diseases, so it is often misdiagnosed.

Chagas disease in dogs can be a silent killer, and it is not well-known or tested for. In dogs, the primary effect is usually heart disease and/or sudden death if left untreated.

HOW DO DOGS GET IT?

- Being bitten by an infected kissing bug
 - Eating infected kissing bugs or infected prey animals
 - Passed from mother to pups

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Dogs can be infected with Chagas and have NO symptoms until **sudden death**. Death can occur at any stage of the disease. Dogs less than a year old tend to develop serious, sudden cases of heart failure, while older dogs will develop heart disease.

HOW DO I KEEP MY DOG SAFE?

Since there is no vaccine for Chagas disease, you can minimize infection through insect & animal control by:

- Keep dogs inside at night
 - Keep outside lights off at night
 - Keep house and outdoor pet resting areas clean
 - Routinely check areas for kissing bugs
 - Spray kennels & other pet areas with pet-friendly insecticides



SHOULD I GET MY DOG TESTED?

Preventative measures are not 100% effective.

If your dog has spent any amount of time in the orange states marked in the map above- **absolutely YES**. Testing for Chagas disease **should be standard practice**, just like heartworm testing, **even if your dog is not showing symptoms**

Early testing could save your dogs life- Chagas is curable if caught early

