



Ringworm Basics

What is it? Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin that is transmitted by contact with spores. Ringworm is zoonotic which means it can be transmitted from animals to humans. It is most often seen on cats, but dogs can be affected as well. Ringworm is usually seen in the warmer months because it survives well in warm, moist environments.

What are the symptoms? Signs of ringworm are usually circular patches of hair loss which are scaly and sometimes raised and red. It is most often found on faces and feet of animals. Young and elderly animals are more susceptible.

How is it treated? Treatment is available for both animals and humans, and usually involves the application of antifungal cream or the use of oral medication. A thorough cleaning of the home environment is also recommended using bleach when possible to remove infective spores.

How is it prevented? All animals receive a thorough physical examination before being placed up for adoption. There is no guaranteed way to prevent ringworm from spreading, but thorough cleaning procedures, hand washing, and isolating new animals will greatly reduce the occurrence of ringworm.