



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RINGWORM

Why is CAT adopting out kittens with ringworm before they are done with treatment?

These kittens will be happier, less stressed, and may heal more quickly in a home.

What is ringworm?

Ringworm is the common name for a fungal skin infection; it is not caused by a worm. Most often it will cause a circular area of fur loss that is red and may be slightly raised. Ringworm can also have other characteristics but these circular, hairless lesions are most common.

Ringworm is similar to athlete's foot in humans. It is contagious to people; the young, old, and immune-compromised are more likely to get it. Ringworm is also very contagious to other animals.

Am I going to get ringworm from my new kitten?

It is possible for you and anyone in your living space to get ringworm from your new kitten. Washing your hands after handling the kitten can help reduce the chances of transmission, but some people may be at greater risk than others: young children, elderly people, and those who are otherwise immune-compromised, such as people who have HIV, people on chemotherapy, people taking medication after transfusion or organ transplant, and highly stressed people.

What if I get ringworm!?

If you have ever had athlete's foot or jock itch, then you have already had a skin fungus like ringworm. Treatment for ringworm usually involves applying an over-the-counter anti-fungal cream, but you may want to consult your physician or pharmacist for specific treatment.

What about my other animals?

In order to help prevent your other pets from contracting ringworm, we recommend that you keep your newly adopted kitten in an isolated room that is easy to clean, such as a bathroom.

Washing your hands and changing your clothes in between petting your new kitten and other animals can reduce the chance of spreading the fungus as well. Remember, your shoes can also be a carrier of ringworm.

What treatment does the kitten need?

Kittens with ringworm are treated once daily with oral medicine and twice weekly with a medicated shampoo. You will be provided with the oral medicine, medicated shampoo, gloves, and instructions for treating the kitten – everything you need to treat them for free for three weeks. Treatment can take longer than three weeks depending on how far along your kitten currently is in their treatment plan. If your kitten needs additional medications, cultures, or shampoo, you will need to follow up with your regular veterinarian.



How to clean your kitten's room

If you put your kitten with ringworm in a bathroom or other confined space without carpet, clean-up is fairly easy.

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering the room. You will be working with bleach which can ruin clothes and can sting if splashed into your eyes. We recommend using:
 - Gloves
 - Protective eyewear
 - Smocks to protect clothes
 - Shoe covers
- Remove the kitten from the area while cleaning. (We recommend putting your kitten in a carrier while you clean.)
- All of the kitten's bedding should be removed and washed with bleach every 2-3 days while the kitten is infected, and then once more after your new kitten is cleared of ringworm to kill any possible residual spores.
- Clean debris from all surfaces with hot soapy water. Make sure all organic material—including hair, feces, mucous, food, and litter—are removed.
- Next, sanitize with a diluted bleach mixture of 1:10 ratio (1/4 cup of bleach per 32 ounces of water).
- Apply the bleach and water solution to the surfaces your ringworm kitty has come into contact with and let it sit for **10 minutes**. Remember, the kitten's hair can float up on the walls, so clean at least 3 feet up each surface.
 - Surfaces must stay wet the entire 10 minutes, so you will need to keep wiping them so they don't dry out.
 - When the 10 minutes are up, wipe down those surfaces with clean water to rinse off excess bleach.
 - Allow area to completely dry before allowing the kitten back out into the room
 - Bleach is unstable once mixed and should be used right away. Throw away any leftover bleach solution, and make up a new batch each day.