

Ringworm Facts

RINGWORM IS A COMMON SKIN INFECTION

Ringworm is NOT A WORM, it's a simple FUNGUS.

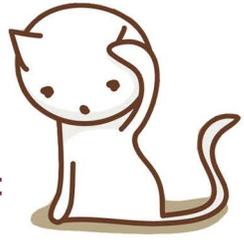
The lesion caused by this infection resembles a worm in the shape of a ring - hence the name.

Ringworm is Treatable and Curable

3 MILLION+

cases of ringworm in humans per year in the U.S.

Although ringworm is non-fatal, easily treated, and can be cured, it is often a death sentence at shelters in the U.S.



Healthy adults are the least likely to get ringworm; those with weaker immune systems, like children and the elderly, are more susceptible

Ringworm = Athlete's Foot = Jock Itch
Its technical name is Dermatophytosis.

The fungus cannot infect healthy, intact skin.
This means that freshly shaved, scraped, or scratched skin is vulnerable.

2-4 WEEKS

average time to clear infection in humans

4-8 WEEKS

average time to clear infection in cats & kittens

8X MORE LIKELY

to occur in kittens vs. adult cats



More common in cats than dogs, ringworm often appears on the face, ear tips, tail & feet

It can be diagnosed using a Wood's lamp and fungal culture



ringworm on a human



ringworm on a cat

Treat ringworm in humans with over-the-counter Lotrimin® cream. Severe cases may need prescription medications like terbinafine.



Bleach diluted in 10 parts water kills the fungus
USE BLEACH ON SURFACES ONLY

Ringworm infections can clear up without treatment, but treatment will speed healing.

TREAT

Treat ringworm by giving cats & kittens 21 days of itraconazole (Itrafungol™)

BATHE

- Bathe cats with lime sulfur 2x/week for 4 weeks; use 8 oz. of lime sulfur dip to 1 gallon of water. Apply with a hand sprayer and gently rub in down to skin; dab on face with rag. Do not dip cats directly into solution; do not use eye ointment. Do not rinse; let kitties air dry.
- Miconazole shampoo with chlorhexidine may also be effective. OdoBan® is great for odor control & cleaning up.

CLEAN

- Ringworm infections can be contained with proper hygiene and cleaning protocols. Always wash your hands thoroughly.
- Wear other clothing when handling ringworm cats and wipe down all surfaces with bleach solution.

Sources: <https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=ringworm-dermatophytosis>; <https://www.aspcapro.org/webinar-series-beating-ringworm>; <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951439>; <https://www.healthline.com/health/ringworm>; <https://www.merckvetmanual.com/cat-owners/skin-disorders-of-cats/ringworm-dermatophytosis-in-cats>; <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/ringworm-in-cats>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4361704/>; <https://www.austinpetsalive.org/programs/ringworm-adoption-center>; <https://www.maddiesfund.org/assets/documents/Institute/Ringworm%20Roundup%201%20Transcript.pdf>