



FUN WITH FUNGUS! Ringworm Information Guide

First...Ringworm is NOT a worm!

Ringworm is the common name for the skin infection caused by a group of fungi. 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 the most common symptom. Ringworm is closely related to athlete's foot in people, and it is contagious to us; the young, old, and immunocompromised are more likely to get it.

Will I get ringworm from my cat/kitten?

It is possible for you and anybody in your living space to get ringworm from your foster, but there are things you can do to limit the risk! Washing your hands after handling the cat/kitten, keeping up with their bath treatments and/or oral medicine, and keeping them isolated from the rest of the family for the length of their treatment can all help reduce the chances of transmission.

What if I get ringworm?

While ringworm is a curable, self-limiting ailment in healthy adults, and while effective over-the-counter treatments are available, we always recommend getting professional advice to resolve it in a timely manner.

What about my other animals?

In order to keep your other pets from getting ringworm, we recommend that you keep your cat/kitten isolated in a room that is easy to clean. Washing your hands and changing your clothes in between your ringworm kitty and other animals can reduce the chance of spreading the fungus as well. Remember, your shoes can also be a carrier of the spores, so a pair of slip-on shoes also helps!

What about my home?

If you keep your cat/kitten in a confined, tiled area, it's simple to clean the space! After a basic cleaning with your usual mopping and scrubbing products, ringworm is killed using a bleach dilution of 16-parts water to 1-part bleach. Let the solution sit for approximately 10 minutes for maximum efficacy. Combining a once-weekly deep-cleaning with freshly-washed towels and bedding can significantly reduce the risk of spores hanging around in your home!

What treatment will my cat/kitten need?

Your cat may be prescribed a once daily oral medication in conjunction with lime sulfur dips or spot treatments 1-2 times per week.