



HEALTHY HINTS

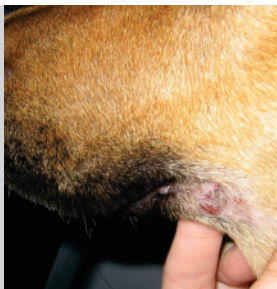


WHAT IS RINGWORM?

Ringworm is not a worm or a parasite at all. It is a contagious fungal infection of the hair shafts and outer layer of the skin. It usually first appears as a small area of hair loss that may be inflamed. The name comes from the characteristic red ring that often occurs around the infected lesion as the fungus grows and spreads outwards.

Infection can be picked up from DIRECT contact with an infected animal or person, or INDIRECT contact with objects or surfaces such as toys, shower mats, hats and grooming equipment.

HAIR LOSS



SPREADING FUNGUS



WHO IS AT RISK?

The disease occurs commonly in dogs and cats, with the highest incidence in kittens, puppies, sick, debilitated and old animals. Cats suffering from FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) and long-haired cats such as Persians have an increased risk of becoming infected with ringworm. Certain breeds of dogs also seem more prone to the disease e.g. Yorkshire Terriers, Jack Russell Terriers and Pekingese.

The following factors increase the risk of an infection;

- high population density in multi-animal facilities e.g. breeding and boarding conditions
- poor nutrition
- poor sanitation
- lack of quarantine when introducing new animals
- immuno-compromising diseases e.g. diabetes, chronic renal failure, neoplasia, FIV and FIP
- medication resulting in immuno-suppression
- grooming and clipping that result in abrading of skin surface
- regular attendance at shows and increased interaction with other animals

VISIT YOUR VET

The disease is of significance because of its zoonotic potential (ability of a disease to be transferred between animals and humans and visa versa). Many animals will show self-limiting infections (symptoms will

self-clear over a period of a few months), but due to the contagious and zoonotic nature of the disease aggressive treatment is justified and your veterinarian must be consulted!

TREATMENT OF THE ANIMAL

Treatment of the infected animal will probably consist of a combination of systemic and topical therapy. It is imperative that instructions from the veterinarian be followed religiously to prevent treatment failure and ensure full recovery. Discuss the clipping of long-haired animals with your vet.

A positive diagnosis of ringworm can only be made by a veterinarian as it involves a review of the animal's history as well as a clinical examination that will include any number of diagnostic tests.

GET IT OFF ME!

Whereas treatment of the infected animal is important, it is also crucial to prevent the spread of the infection to other members of the household – including the two-legged ones!

INFECTED HUMAN



RINGWORM SPORES



Environmental decontamination is an often neglected but essential step in the successful treatment of ringworm. Fungal spores are extremely resistant organisms and can stay viable in the environment for approximately 2 years.

Keep the following in mind;

- Very few disinfectants are in fact effective against fungal spores! Make sure that you use products that are registered by the Dept of Agriculture for this purpose,
- Isolate infected animals until they are declared clinically healthy by the vet.
- Handle infected animals and areas last to avoid cross-contamination.
- Thoroughly vacuum all surfaces to remove infected hairs and dispose of vacuum bag afterwards (preferably burn it).
- Disinfect all bedding, toys, grooming equipment, food and drink bowls, cages, litter trays (Soak in or spray with F10SC Veterinary Disinfectant).
- Discard all objects that cannot be repeatedly vacuumed, scrubbed and disinfected

WASH



DISINFECT



- Use separate cleaning equipment and disinfect daily.
- Wear protective clothing and discard or disinfect after every use.
- Follow a strict hand washing routine. Use an effective antimicrobial soap (F10 Antiseptic Liquid Soap is ideal for this purpose) and proper hand washing technique. Make use of hand gels for waterless decontamination in between handling animals (F10 Hand Gel is available through your veterinarian).
- Spores can be spread via air-conditioning systems and through contaminated dust

REDUCING THE RISK OF RE-INFECTION AND THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE

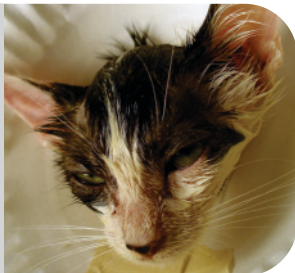
Re-infection and spread to other animals and family members can be prevented by following a cleaning and disinfection programme as set out above, as well as taking additional steps such as the following;

- Wash ALL animals immediately with a fungicidal shampoo to prevent infestation through spores on the animal's coat (F10 Germicidal Treatment Shampoo is safe to use on dogs and cats of all ages and is available from your local veterinarian)
- Never introduce a new pet to the household (especially in a breeding facility) until culture-negative results have been obtained from your vet.
- Consult your vet about a management plan (healthy, adult dogs and cats can become carriers of the fungus without presenting clinical symptoms and can re-infect your population continuously).

WASH HANDS



WASH ANIMALS



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE IN CASES OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

APPLICATION	FREQUENCY	DILUTION /10 LITRES	MINIMUM EXPOSURE
HOUSING Isolate all diagnosed and visibly infected animals immediately. Infected puppies must be isolated with the mother. Remove all bedding and equipment (e.g. toys, brushes, water and feed bowls) from cages, floors. Soak bedding and equipment in F10SC before washing. Hang to dry / tumble dry. Wash water and feed bowls with warm water and F10SCXD, spray with F10SC and leave to dry. Wash all surfaces (work benches, floors, tables, walls, tiles) with F10SCXD.	Daily Daily Daily	100 ml 100 ml 100 ml	15 min Leave to dry Leave to dry
STAFF Handling of animals should be limited and involve as few people as possible. Staff movement must be restricted to designated areas. Infected animals and areas should be handled last to avoid cross-contamination. Protective clothing should be worn and discarded or washed and disinfected daily. Proper hand decontamination (running water, F10 antiseptic liquid soap and paper towel to dry or use F10 Hand Gel) must be done after any animals or possible infected material such as bedding had been handled.	Daily In between handling animals	100 ml 4 ml as is	Soak 15 min, hang to dry 30 sec
GENERAL Grass should be kept short and exposed to as much sun as possible. Carrier boxes must be washed (F10SCXD) and disinfected (F10SC) after every use and left to dry. All cleaning equipment (mops, cloths, brushes) must be washed with F10SCXD and disinfected with F10SC at the end of each day.	After every use At the end of each shift	100 ml 100ml	Leave to dry Hang to dry
ANIMAL TREATMENT (Where applicable) Wash ALL animals immediately with F10 Germicidal Treatment Shampoo to prevent the disease from spreading. Repeat for up to 3 treatments on every other day on infected animals and once a week on non-infected animals. Apply F10 Germicidal Barrier Ointment to affected lesions once daily. Remove all organic material and ointment with F10SC (1:250) before re-applying the Ointment.	Every other day or as prescribed by veterinarian	As is As is As is 100 ml	Leave 15 min rinse Leave 15 min rinse Leave to dry -

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PRODUCTS



VETERINARY PRACTICE



Health and Hygiene