



Love them for life

MANAGING RINGWORM

Ringworm (dermatophytosis) is an inflammation of the skin due to a fungus from soil found in most gardens. On a pet the fungus is found at the root of the hair follicle. It usually causes skin lesions on your cat's paws, muzzle, tail, or ears but can be found anywhere on the body. Ringworm can affect cats, dogs and humans and is contagious. So when a single lesion appears, treatment should be commenced immediately. Sometimes ringworm appears shortly after a kitten is rehomed possibly as a stress reaction from leaving the mother cat and litter mates or due exposure to soil.

Ringworm can unknowingly be carried by adult cats but may not be detectable due to their mature immune systems. Kittens on the other hand have an immature immune systems and so it is common in kittens. Indeed thousands are cruelly killed at vets and shelters each year when it is very treatable. Akin to pimples in an adolescent, ringworm is easily treated and within a month, it should be resolved. **WLPA provides home visiting support to treat ringworm at no cost to the adopter.** Oral medications for ringworm can kill and WLPA advises against their use in kittens.

SIGNS:

- Hair loss in circular patterns which get bigger each day
- Scales or crusty skin
- Hair that falls out too easily

OBJECTIVES:

- Stop spread on cat's body, to another animal and humans
- Remove spores from cat's body via bathing
- Remove spores from the environment

HOW?

- Cage the kitten/cat in a cat tent or humane good sized cage
- Meleseb shampoo the kitten each 4-7 days at least 3 times
- Apply anti-fungal (Canesten) cream to the lesion **ONLY ONCE**
- Keep kitten out of your bed and off the sofa (cuddle on hard surface areas)
- Vacuum cage (or wipe with a wipe) and room daily to remove spores
- Replace bedding each day and bleach treat it when washing laundry

A blue light test can be performed at home: in the dark see if the fur highlights. This is cheaper than a skin culture test at the vet. Most cats grow out of ringworm but those who take longer to do so may have an underlying immune system problem and should be vet monitored closely in the first 6 to 8 months of life.



The World League for Protection of Animals Inc

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