

Ringworm Facts

RINGWORM
IS A COMMON
SKIN
INFECTION

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

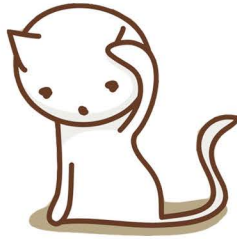
The lesion caused by this infection resembles a worm in the shape of a ring – hence the name.

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



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>