

### Ringworm FAQ

#### **What is ringworm (dermatophytosis)?**

Ringworm is the common name for the skin infection caused by a group of fungi; it is not caused by a worm at all.

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. Ringworm is also very contagious to other animals including dogs, other cats, guinea pigs, etc.

Most often it will cause a circular area of furloss that is red and may be slightly raised. Ringworm can also have other characteristics but these circular, hairless lesions are the most common symptom.

#### **Am I going to get ringworm from my new kitty?**

It is possible for you and anybody in your living space to get ringworm from your new cat.

Washing your hands after handling the cat and keeping them isolated to a bathroom for the length of their treatment can help reduce the chances of transmission, but some people may be at greater risk than others. This puts young animals and children, elderly people and pets, those who are HIV+, people on chemotherapy or taking medication after a transfusion or organ transplant, and highly stressed people and animals at high risk.

#### **What if I get ringworm?**

We recommend that you see a physician. While ringworm is a curable, self-limiting ailment in healthy adults, 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 adopted cat isolated in a room that is easy to clean, such as a bathroom. 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.

#### **What treatment will my new cat need?**

Your cat will continue to take a once daily oral medication in conjunction with lime sulfur dipping. Instructions for dipping are included in this packet, and we are always available for advice and support. We will supply you with everything you will need to continue treatment for three weeks!

#### **What about my home?**

If you keep your cat in a bathroom or other confined, tiled area it is very easy to clean the space. Ringworm is killed using a bleach dilution of 10 parts water to 1 part bleach. Let the solution sit for approximately 10 minutes for maximum efficacy.

The area the cat is kept in, and all of their bedding, should be washed using bleach at least once weekly.