

RINGWORM IN CATS

What every cat owner should know.

Ringworm is a common fungal infection that can affect cats, people, and other animals. It's usually not serious, but it is highly contagious and requires treatment.

Early diagnosis, treatment, and good hygiene help stop the spread and speed recovery.



RINGWORM IS
CONTAGIOUS TO
PEOPLE, OTHER
PETS, AND CATS.



WHAT IS RINGWORM?

Ringworm is not a worm. It's a fungal infection of the skin, hair, and nails caused by dermatophyte fungi.

It causes round, scaly patches of hair loss and can spread easily through direct contact or by contact with contaminated items or environments.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ringworm spores can survive in the environment for months, even without a cat present.

Regular cleaning and disinfection are key to prevention and recovery.



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HOW DOES RINGWORM SPREAD?

Ringworm spreads easily through:

- Direct contact with an infected cat
- Contact with bedding, brushes, toys, or other contaminated items
- Contact with contaminated surfaces (floors, carpets, furniture)
- Through people who touch an infected cat and then others



People can develop ringworm, usually as a red, itchy, ring-shaped rash on the skin.



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SIGNS OF RINGWORM

Signs can vary and may include:

- Round patches of hair loss
- Scaly, flaky, or crusty skin
- Red or circular lesions
- Itching (not always present)
- Broken hairs or dull coat



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HOW IS RINGWORM DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- Examine your cat's skin and coat
- Use a special UV light (Wood's lamp) to check for fluorescence
- Collect hair or skin samples for fungal culture
- Use a microscopic exam
- Results can take several days.



Accurate diagnosis is important because other skin conditions can look similar.



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TREATMENT

Treatment usually includes:

- Oral antifungal medication
- Topical antifungal creams or medicated shampoos
- Regular baths with antifungal shampoo (as advised)
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection
- Treatment continues for several weeks and should never be stopped early.



Always follow your veterinarian's instructions and complete the full course of treatment.

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CARING FOR YOUR CAT AT HOME

To help your cat recover and prevent spread:

- Isolate your cat from other pets and people if possible
- Wash your hands after handling your cat
- Wear gloves when applying topical treatments
- Wash bedding, towels, and toys regularly in hot water
- Vacuum and disinfect all areas your cat has been in contact with



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CAN PEOPLE GET RINGWORM?

Yes. Ringworm can spread to people, especially children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems.

It usually appears as a red, itchy, ring-shaped rash on the skin.



If you develop a rash, see your doctor or pharmacist. Keep your cat's treatment and hygiene routine consistent to prevent reinfection.

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PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE

You can reduce the risk of ringworm with good hygiene and care:

- Keep your cat's environment clean
- Groom your cat regularly
- Check new cats for skin issues
- Limit contact with stray or unknown cats
- Seek veterinary care early if you notice any skin changes



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER



Ringworm is treatable with time and consistency.



Good hygiene protects your family and other pets.



Clean the environment thoroughly to prevent reinfection.



Work closely with your veterinarian for the best outcome.



EARLY ACTION MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

If you suspect your cat has ringworm, contact your veterinarian. Early diagnosis, proper treatment, and good hygiene help protect your cat—and everyone in your home.



HEALTHY CATS.
HEALTHY HOMES.
HEALTHY LIVES.



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