

Ringworm Questions and Answers

- **What is Ringworm?** It is a fungus, very similar to athlete's foot, which lives everywhere, including on animals, people, and in the soil. You have probably come in contact with it multiple times in your day-to-day life and not even known it. Ringworm spores are very hardy and live a long time in most environments.
- **Am I going to get ringworm from my new kitty?** That is possible, but it's not likely.. Typically, healthy people don't catch ringworm, and if you are good about washing your hands and changing clothes after handling ringworm kitties, then you should be fine.
- **What if I get ringworm!?** It is really not a big deal if you do manage to catch it. It's a red crusty little spot which can sometimes be itchy. If you've ever had athlete's foot or jock itch, then you've already had a skin fungus like ringworm. It is easy to treat on humans because we aren't furry, Just a little anti-fungal cream will clear it right up. An over-the-counter anti-fungal cream can be found at any pharmacy. Apply the anti-fungal cream liberally to the infected area a few times a day. You can cover it with a bandaid to keep the area clean and dry. In a few days, your ringworm will be cleared up.
- **What about my other animals?** In order to keep your other animals from contracting ringworm, we recommend keeping your ringworm kitten(s) isolated in a room that is easy to clean and can be bleached thoroughly (a bathroom works very well) until they have been cleared of ringworm. Also, washing your hands and changing clothes in between handling the ringworm kittens and your personal animals will definitely help reduce any possible transmission.
- **What treatment do they need?** Kittens under 2 lbs. are treated with an anti-fungal cream. Kittens over 2 lbs. are treated with a once daily oral medicine called Itraconazole. While not required, foster caregivers can use special medicated shampoos to help. You will be provided with the medication, shampoos, and any other supplies you need.
- **What about it getting in my house?** If you put the kittens in a bathroom or other confined tile space cleanup is easy. Ringworm is killed by dilute bleach; a 10 to 1 ratio water/bleach solution works well. Let the solution sit for approximately 15 minutes for maximum effectiveness. Sanitize anything they have come into contact with before allowing other animals to touch it. All of their bedding should be washed with bleach weekly, while still infected, and then once more after the animals are cleared of ringworm to kill any possible residual spores. After the kittens leave the room, it should be cleaned with a 10 to 1 water/bleach solution.

Helpful Links

<http://ringworminhumans.com>