

# SUPERFICIAL DERMATOMYCOSES



# SUPERFICIAL DERMATOMYCOSES

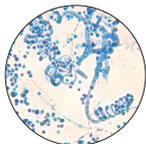
## DESCRIPTION

Ringworm is a fungal infection of the hair, nails and skin caused by a unique fungus that has adapted to living on animals. The infection is commonly known as ringworm because of the typical circular shape of the skin lesions seen on the skin of humans. There is no “worm” involved, however. Among animals, ringworm is most commonly seen on cats, but dogs and horses can be infected as well. Some animals show no disease signs, while others may have patches of hair loss, scaling, and itching. Few animals show the classic circular, red crusty patches seen in humans.



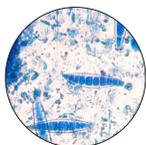
### MICROSPORUM GYPSEUM

A cause of ringworm in dogs, horses, and occasionally other animal species. This species of Ringworm is usually from dogs and cats that dig into contaminated soil.



### TRICHOPHYTON MENTAGROPHYTES

A zoophilic small-spored ectothrix species of fungi that causes infection of the hair, skin, and nails. This species infects dogs and cats when they are exposed to rodents or the burrows they live in.



### MICROSPORUM CANIS

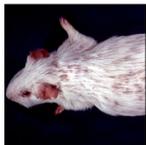
A zoophilic fungal species that causes dermatophytosis in humans and animals. The source of this species of Ringworm is almost always a cat.

## SYMPTOMS



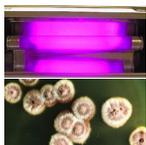
The skin lesions that appear with Ringworm are variable, and do not necessarily form a ring. There will be hair loss, usually in small patches at first. As time goes on the patches may disappear or appear at other locations on the skin. There might be scratching due to itchiness. If the hair loss occurs on the face or feet there is a chance it is due to digging habits or exposure to rodents.

## TRANSMISSION



Cats, dogs and humans most commonly come into contact with the organism from the soil, from infected bedding or brushes, or from other animals. People can even spread the infection to their pets. An exact diagnosis in animals and people is made by appearance of the skin lesions and fungal cultures.

## DIAGNOSIS



To diagnose Ringworm your vet will need to do one of the following tests. It is not possible by just looking at the skin to make the diagnosis.

- **Wood's Lamp:** An ultra violet lamp also known as a black light. Your vet may use this as 50% of *Microsporum canis* will glow under the lamp.
- **Microscopic diagnosis:** Your vet may look at part of the hair or skin from the lesion under a microscope.
- **Culture:** Your vet may decide to take a scraping from the lesion and send it away to the laboratory to see what the culture grows.

## TREATMENT



There are a variety of anti-fungal creams, lotions, shampoos, and oral medications available for both pets and people. If ringworm is identified on your pet, all bedding, combs, and brushes must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The fungal spores remain infective for up to 18 months, so remove as many as possible by vacuuming floors, surfaces, and vents. Steam-cleaning carpets is also necessary.

## PREVENTION



Avoid contact with stray animals, particularly if they show signs of ringworm infection. The best way to prevent ringworm transmission is diagnosing your pet early and following your veterinarian's instructions completely when treating your pet.