



## OC Animal Care 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 fur loss that is red and may be slightly raised. Ringworm can also have other characteristics but these circular, hairless lesions are the most common symptom.

### **Is ringworm contagious?**

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

Washing your hands after handling an infected cat and keeping them isolated for the length of their treatment can help reduce the chances of transmission, but some people may be at greater risk than others. 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 are at a higher 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 is OC Animal Care doing about Ringworm?**

OC Animal Care is taking multiple steps to prevent the spread of Ringworm. We are isolating and treating all Ringworm positive or Ringworm exposed cats. Staff is also taking additional precautions when cleaning, feeding and otherwise caring for these shelter pets.

### **What is that Smell?**

One of the treatment steps staff is taking involves dipping cats in a Lyme Sulfur solution. This has proven effective when dealing with Ringworm but unfortunately, it can be a bit stinky! The smell is often described as similar to rotten eggs.

### **Is OC Animal Care euthanizing shelter pets with Ringworm?**

No, we will not euthanize a shelter pet for Ringworm. Ringworm is a treatable condition and staff is working hard to treat every affected shelter pet so they find their forever home.

### **Are cats with Ringworm available for adoption?**

Yes!

### **How can I help?**

There are many ways to help! If you are interested in fostering and treating a cat with Ringworm please contact [Foster@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:Foster@occr.ocgov.com). We will provide all treatment supplies and medication.

Help spread the word! OC Animal Care is at capacity with cats increasing the stress levels and risk that cats will be affected. Help us promote adoptions!

Or Donate! <https://licensepet.com/wl3/don/orngwd/413>

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit this helpful link for more information on Ringworm.

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951439>