

# RINGWORM

## ZOONOSES FACTSHEET

Diseases that spread from animals to people

### WHAT IS IT?

**SURPRISE!**  
It is **not** a worm!

Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin. It causes a 'ring' or circle of hair loss on the skin. The fungus that causes Ringworm is in the environment all the time, especially in warm and humid areas.

Ringworm fungi are tiny; they can only be seen with a microscope. Some other types of fungi are mushrooms and mould.

### HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Ringworm  
is spread by touch

Dogs, cats, people and other animals can get Ringworm. You can get Ringworm from touching an animal or person who has ringworm. You can also get ringworm from touching clothes, hair, bowls, toys or anything else that an infected animal or person has touched.

Strong immune systems can help protect people from Ringworm. Old people, children, sick people and pregnant women are more likely to get Ringworm.

### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In **animals**: Round patches of hairless skin; Dry/scaly skin; Itchy skin.

In **people**: Red rings on skin; Dry/scaly skin; Itchy skin.



### HOW DO YOU TREAT IT?



#### Wash animals with medicated shampoo (e.g. Malaseb, Imaverol)

- Wash infected animals twice weekly for 4-6 weeks
- Wash any other household pets once and then keep separated from infected animals
- Ask the vet about anti-fungal tablets/creams

#### Wash household items to prevent spread

- Wash animal beds and floors in 10 parts of water and 1 part bleach
- Put animal beds outside in the sun regularly
- Vacuum and steam clean floors and carpets regularly

#### Wash hands regularly with soap and water to prevent Ringworm spread.

If you think you have Ringworm, visit a doctor.

**For more information:** please contact AMRRIC on (08) 8948 1768, email us at [info@amrric.org](mailto:info@amrric.org) or visit our website: [www.amrric.org](http://www.amrric.org)

#### REFERENCES

Jackson, H., and Marcella, R., 2012, BSAVA Canine And Feline Dermatology 3rd Edition, British Small Animal Veterinary Association.  
Phelan, S., 2010, Dog Health Programs in Indigenous Communities – an Environmental Health Practitioner's Guide, AMRRIC.  
<https://www.amrric.org/resources/ehp-manual/>

Image 1: Ringworm lesions in a cat, photo courtesy of AMRRIC; Image 2: Ringworm lesions in a dog, photo courtesy of Dr Rebecca Burrie, Roper Gulf Regional Council; Image 3: Ringworm lesion in a person, photo courtesy of AMRRIC. Other images are stock photos.