

Downers Grove Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic, P.C.

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Ringworm

What Is Ringworm?

A microscopic fungal organism causes ringworm.

How Is Ringworm Spread?

Ringworm is spread by direct contact with an infected animal (or person), or with infected bedding and grooming tools.

Can Ringworm Be Spread To Other Species Of Animals?

Yes. The fungal organisms that cause ringworm are very contagious and can be spread from pet to pet, pet to human, or human to pet.

What Are The Signs Of Ringworm?

Early signs include dry, flaky skin, broken hair, and bald patches on ears, front legs and around the eyes. More advanced signs include crusty lesions and infected areas that become red and sore.

If My Pet Does Not Show Signs Of Ringworm, Does That Mean It's Not Infected?

No. Many cats do not show clinical signs of ringworm but are CARRIERS.

Why Is This Disease Called "Ringworm"?

Healing of the infected areas occurs from the center out, creating a ring effect, thus the name "ringworm".

Which Cats Are Most Susceptible To Ringworm?

Ringworm is most common in young cats, and in cats with debilitating diseases.

What Should I Do To Be Sure My Cat Is Not Infected?

All new cats and kittens you adopt should have a fungal culture performed to determine if it is a "carrier".

Don't take chances with the health of your pets and family members.