

Disease Name:	Ringworm (dermatophytosis)		
Agent:	<i>Microsporum canis</i> (other species can infect dogs and cats, but <i>M. canis</i> by far most common in shelters.)		
Clinical Signs:	<p>Animals - Red scaling, alopecic and crusting non-itchy lesions usually with broken hairs commonly found on ears, face, paws but can be found anywhere on the body.</p> <p>Humans – Ring-shaped areas of scaling and hair loss, with or without redness, crusting and itching.</p>		
Susceptible domestic species	Cats, dogs, ferrets, others. Persian cats and Yorkshire Terriers are extra susceptible.		
Zoonotic?	Yes		
Diagnostic tests:	Woods lamp (must be real Woods lamp, electric preferred to battery operated)	Fungal culture	PCR
Test sensitivity (false negatives)	Good (> 80%)	Good but takes up to two weeks	
Test specificity (false positives)	Good (a few other fungal species and some drugs and other substances can fluoresce if spilled on the fur)	Good (see comments) but must wait full two weeks before confirming negative	
Test comments	Maximum accuracy when performed correctly (allow lamp to warm up 5-10 minutes, perform in completely dark room, hold over suspect lesion 3-5 minutes)	Fungal culture is quite accurate when performed correctly. Microscopic identification is required for all cultures, regardless of presence or absence of color change on DTM. Some species, notably <i>Trichophyton</i> , can be more difficult to culture.	
Vaccine available?	Vaccine no longer available; previously available vaccine was not effective to prevent infection.		
Vaccine efficacy	N/A		
Mode of transmission:	Present on hair, very readily shed in environment, extremely contagious, may be carried on hair and dust long distances on fomites and through heating and ventilation ducts.		
Disinfection	Highly resistant, can persist for over a year. Currently, Prevail at a 1:40 dilution with a five minute wet contact time or high-concentration bleach (1:20 dilution) are the only two effective disinfectants for ringworm. Commercial steam cleaning for carpets. Some environments can't be decontaminated. Potassium peroxydisulfate has been shown to be ineffective for ringworm decontamination. (For specifics about treatment, see Dermatophyte Treatment in a Nutshell .)		

ONTARIO SPCA
AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Incubation	1-3 weeks
Post-recovery shedding	Cats can remain infectious for several weeks following clinical recovery.
Carrier state?	True carrier state uncommon, but cats can act as mechanical carriers without developing clinical signs themselves.
PPE Required	Gloves, gown, shoe covers
Control	Clean all shedded hairs with Swiffer rather than sweeping