

Useful Tips on

CATS AND DOGS



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Cats Ringworm And Your Children

Ringworm is quite common in cats, especially those that are not groomed or looked after well enough. However, even the most cared-for cats can get ringworm because it is so contagious.

However, ringworm is not caused by a worm. Sorry, for telling you how to suck eggs, if you already knew that, but a lot of owners do not.

Ringworm is actually a fungus known as dermatophytosis and is extremely infectious for most animals including humans. Cats frequently pass it on to every other whilst rubbing and pass it onto humans during grooming or stroking.

Not only that, but when you have the infection on your hands, you might develop ringworm on your body wherever you touch yourself or you may pass it onto someone else, another cat or your dog.

If you notice the tell-tale Catherine-wheel shaped mark on your cat, you must take it to the vet instantly for treatment.

Likewise, if you or your kids pick up the infection, you must see a GP or dermatologist. You should see an improvement in a few days and complete recovery within a week or so, although treatment may go on for a fortnight to make sure complete recovery.

Sometimes, you may not see the ring-like mark, but if your cat or child is itching or scratching in one spot and there are no fleas, suspect ringworm. Being a fungus, spores will drop off the host all over the house and might even become blown about in the aircon system. This could easily infect each living thing in the house, so it is nasty.

Therefore, if you suspect that something is wrong, but you cannot explain it, suspect ringworm, be on the look out for the signs and see to it as soon as it reveals itself.

While you have your cat on your lap, check it for signs of ringworm. These are very often on the head, where it has nuzzled a cat.

Look around the eyes, the ears and on the paws for bald spots, the ring mark or merely red, flaky dry skin. The cat may lick it or scratch the spot frequently and there might be dandruff.

The first thing to do is put on gloves and inspect the cat for fleas. If you do not see a heavy infestation of fleas, your cat probably has ringworm so get it to the vet as soon as possible.

In the meantime, isolate it from your children and do not touch the patch, although it may already be too late.

The treatment for ringworm in cats is quite simple. It usually involves bathing your cat every other day and applying anti-fungal cream once or twice a day to the infected patches wearing rubber gloves.

Applying the cream is not a problem, but a large number of cats actually hate being bathed, so this could become difficult. If your cat hates water, put it in a pillow case and fasten it at its throat with an old flea collar. This ought to prevent the cat from clawing you and running away.

A comparable treatment should be undergone by every member of the family, but you will merely exchange your normal soap and shampoo for an anti-fungal one for a fortnight.

Bedding For Your Dog

Bedding is very important for a dog, especially a puppy which has just been taken away from its mother. In fact, if you can arrange it, it is a good idea to leave a blanket with your puppy when it is still with its mother and siblings, that way the blanket will remind him of home, which will be a big consolation to it in its early days of loneliness.

The best material to use for your blanket is wool. Wool is absorbent and so retains some moisture and smells, which will help the animal feel at more home. Wool is also pretty tough and warm, not that warmth is really a major concern for a dog that lives in the house.

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