

So the animal you like has

RINGWORM

No Problem!



What's the Deal?

The pet you are interested in is currently being treated for ringworm, a mild skin infection common in mammals similar to athlete's foot; you have probably heard of this before because it is often found in warm weather states, children's daycares, workout gyms, and amongst wrestlers. While ringworm can be a little annoying, it is not life threatening to people or animals, and usually clears up within 6-8 weeks from when they start treatment.

If you have ever gotten ringworm yourself, you know it is pretty simple to treat in humans: doctors often prescribe an antifungal cream for a few weeks. Since people and other pets can share ringworm, we recommend lots of hand washing, vacuuming, and if you have other pets in the home, keeping them separate until treatment is done, just to be safe, since PAWS cannot help treat resident animals in the home.

How does one get ringworm?

Ringworm needs certain circumstances to begin to grow...it needs a break in the skin (such as dry, cracked skin or a scratch) and it needs an immuno-compromised host. This is why shelter animals are extra susceptible, because they are often stressed or sick when they come to us. Removing the ringworm spores from your skin and clothes by washing is the best way to prevent you from getting it.

How do I know when it is gone?

Since ringworm is a fungus, the best way to see if it is still present is to get a hair sample by brushing the pet, put it on a petri dish, and try to culture the ringworm. If no ringworm grows on two cultures, taken 14 days apart, they can be cleared of ringworm and scheduled for any remaining surgeries, if applicable.

How do I limit the transmission?

The best way to limit the spread of ringworm in a home is to keep the affected pet in one space, as opposed to roaming throughout the house, and removing any non-essential or difficult-to-clean items from the room they will be staying, ideally before they get there. Anywhere a pet's hair can land, ringworm can be on that hair, so washing linens in hot water, vacuuming, and wiping down surfaces once or twice per week helps a lot! To clean, we recommend either 1/10 dilution of bleach, RESCUE brand disinfectant, or the physical removal of spores (through vacuuming or washing) in hot water (including steamers); you can use different methods depending on the surface (you may wash a blanket, steam a couch, or wipe RESCUE on a table).

If you have other pets in the home, we especially recommend keeping them separate, not sharing any bedding, toys, etc., and changing your clothes/washing your hands after spending a lot of close contact with an affected pet. After the ringworm is gone, studies show that a full, extra thorough cleaning twice removes nearly all the ringworm spores from a home.

How does PAWS treat ringworm in a home?

PAWS offers lots of options, at no cost to you as long as the care is done at one of our two PAWS clinic locations (our Northeast Clinic at 1810 Grant Avenue or our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter and Wellness Center at 2900 Grays Ferry Ave). The ringworm services we offer are:

- **Medication:** Itrafungol: a liquid given by mouth once per day for seven days on alternating weeks (*give the medication every day for a week, skip a week, give again for a week, etc.*)
- **Lyme-Sulfur baths:** these are recommended to be once or twice per week, and can be done by staff at our Grays Ferry clinic location 9:30-11am on Mondays and Thursdays, or we can send it home with you, and you can 'dip' them at home. It does stain some surfaces bright yellow, so we recommend using a large plastic tub instead of a bathtub.
- **Culturing:** a new culture should be taken about every two weeks, and can be done at either location

Does this affect the adoption process at all?

The adoption fee stays the same; there is no extra charge for all of the follow-up care we provide for your and your ringworm pet. We will be in contact with you about the schedule of your cultures, and you will always be able to reach out to our team with any questions as you go through the process....we are with you every step of the way!

Because it is safer to wait until the ringworm is cleared before undergoing surgery, such as a spay or neuter surgery, if your PAWS pet is **not** fixed yet, there may be an extra \$100, *refundable deposit* that you will get back once they are fixed.

I'm ready! Anything else I should know?

Here is a handy schedule of what services are offered when, and at which location:

2900 GRAYS FERRY:

- **Mondays and Thursdays** - (lyme sulfur dips, vaccines, and/or culturing) Due to COVID-19 All appointments must be scheduled on these days.

For Fosters: Email Foster@phillypaws.org

For Adopters: Email Adoptions@phillypaws.org

