



## What Is Ringworm?

- 🐾 Ringworm isn't caused by a worm at all! Ringworm is a skin infection caused by special kinds of fungus.
- 🐾 You can find fungus almost everywhere! Mushrooms are a kind of fungus, and so is the mold that grows on food when it starts to go bad. There's also lots of fungus in soil, but it's so small you can't see it. The fungus that causes ringworm grows on the skin of animals and people.
- 🐾 It can take a long time for a ringworm infection to go away – sometimes weeks or months – even with medicine from the vet or your doctor.
- 🐾 If your pet gets ringworm, you will need to clean the whole house really well. Some rooms where your pet stays a lot will need to be cleaned many times. If the house isn't cleaned enough, the ringworm won't go away, and people and other pets in the house may get infected too.



## Where Does Ringworm Come From?

- 🐾 Ringworm comes from people and animals that already have ringworm. Some animals, especially cats, may have ringworm on their fur even though you can't tell they have it.
- 🐾 Ringworm can also live for a very long time in dust, and on things like clothes and blankets that were touched by a pet or a person with ringworm. Anything that has a lot of fur on it from an animal with ringworm will also have a lot of ringworm on it.



## How Do People & Pets Get Ringworm?

- 🐾 People and pets get ringworm by touching a person or a pet that has ringworm, or by touching something that was touched by a person or a pet with ringworm, like clothes, a hairbrush, or even a spot on the floor.
- 🐾 It's easier to get ringworm if there is already a little cut on skin, or if your skin is very wet and soft instead of nice and dry.

## How Do I Know If My Pet Has Ringworm?

- 🐾 If your pet has ringworm, it may look like there is something wrong with its skin or fur.
- 🐾 Ringworm often makes fur and hair fall out in patches. It may also be very itchy.
- 🐾 Some animals, mostly cats, may have ringworm even though you can't tell at all.
- 🐾 Your vet can do a test to see if ringworm is growing in or on your pet's body. If your vet finds ringworm, your pet might need some special medicine and some baths, and your pet will have to stay in its own room until the ringworm is gone.

## Can I Get Ringworm From My Pet?

**Yes.** Ringworm can live anywhere on your pet's fur. Most pets don't have it, but it can be hard to tell sometimes. To help make sure you don't get ringworm, this is what you should do:

- 👉 Always wash your hands well after you play with your pet.
- 👉 If you have a cut or sore, cover it with a bandage. Don't let your pet touch it.
- 👉 If you notice something wrong with your pet's fur, or your own skin, tell an adult. Try not to touch your pet's fur until you know what's wrong with it.

