

Ringworm

What is ringworm?

Ringworm is a disease that pets may pass onto children. It is actually not a worm but is a fungal infection of the skin. It can spread from direct contact or from things such as infected bedding but can also get into carpet, furniture and airconditioning and heating ducts.

What are the signs of infection in pets?

Cats can be carriers and show little or any sign of infection. It is generally seen in kittens or young cats before their immune systems have had the chance to fully develop. The infection will normally appear as a circular patch of hair loss commonly one to four centimeters in diameter. The head and paws are the most commonly affected areas.



What are the signs of infection in children?

In humans it will appear as a red scaly area and may have a target type appearance or there may be a patch of hair loss.



How do you treat your child?

Although not serious it is advisable to seek medical advice as soon as possible as it can normally be treated with an ointment.

How can you prevent it?

Thoroughly wash hands after handling pets or playing in the garden. Avoid direct contact with infected animals