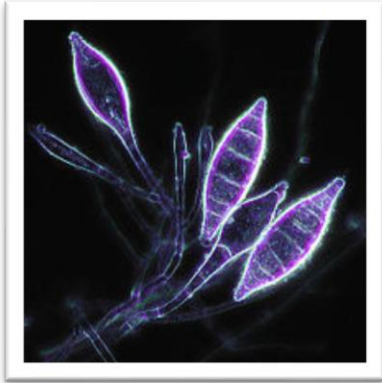


RINGWORM



M. Canis fungus

WHAT IS RINGWORM?

Ringworm is a contagious skin condition caused by different species of microscopic fungi known as **dermatophytes**.

The most common species affecting companion animals are:

- *Microsporum canis*
- *Microsporum gypseum*
- *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*

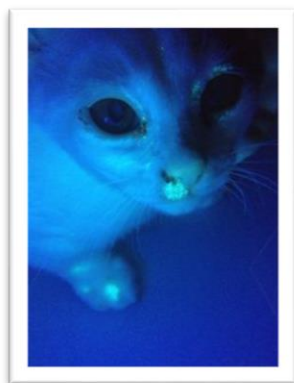
Ringworm is often spread through unsanitary conditions and is most prevalent in young or immune compromised patients.

SYMPTOMS OF RINGWORM

Unlike ringworm in humans, it is often **not itchy**.

The primary symptom of ringworm in companion animals is **circular areas of hair loss, scaly skin and occasionally a ring of reddened skin**.

Most common sites of infection are: **the face, feet and under the belly**.



DIAGNOSIS

M. canis is the most common species found and will **fluoresce** when under a **Wood's lamp**. Other species of ringworm will not fluoresce and need to be diagnosed via **fungal culture** (this can take up to 4-6 weeks).

A history of family members such as children having similar lesions is a good indicator.

TREATMENT

Environmental decontamination is the most important mainstay of treating ringworm as spores can live readily in an animal's environment. This requires **removal of all in-contact bedding** and **heavy bleaching** of all surfaces.

Topical treatment of single lesions with **Malaseb®** or **antifungal creams** is often effective. For more generalised ringworm, **antifungal tablets** may be prescribed. Treatment needs to continue for a minimum of **2 weeks** after lesions has resolved to ensure all spores are killed.