

Mountain View Animal Hospital  
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### **DERMATOPHYTOSIS (RINGWORM)**

Dermatophytosis is an infection of the hair, nails, or skin. The majority of infections in dogs and cats are caused by three species of dermatophytes. Some naturally inhabit the soil, some are adapted to animals, and some like humans.

#### 1. Oral medication

As directed. Give it with a fatty meal or with food. Treatment is for a minimum one month. At one month, we'll start once weekly fungal cultures, and after two negative cultures in a row, we can stop the pills. The medication can cause some stomach upset.

#### 2. Shampoo

You'll need to bathe your pet twice weekly, making sure you *leave it on for 10 minutes*. Put a timer on- dealing with a soapy dog in the tub can make one minute seem like 10! After he's had two baths (in about one week). There is some debate as to a whole body clip.

#### 3. Environment

Thoroughly vacuum floors, carpeting, and furniture to remove infected hairs twice weekly. Dispose of vacuum bag after each use. Clean surfaces that won't be damaged by the solution with a 1:10 dilution of bleach. Dispose of all grooming equipment. Wash hands thoroughly after handling infected animals. Do these things until they are all cleared up.

The spores can live a long time in the environment (years). This doesn't mean you have to do this cleaning for years, just to be aware if you or the pet develop any skin lesions keep that in the back of our mind. I have seen cases of ringworm and haven't ever seen it recur/reinfect the pet. It is possible because of the spores in the environment, but not the usual.

#### 4. You/you family

This is contagious! Monitor for any unusual lesions. They are not always ring shaped. Call your family physician if you have any questions/concerns.

#### Follow-up

Once we've stopped the treatments, we'll monitor for several months to ensure it's resolved.