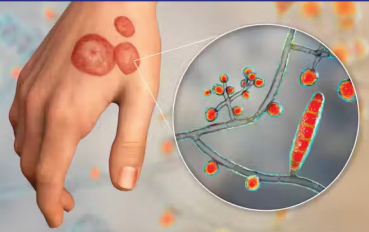


Ringworm Disease

Abattoirs: RINGWORM



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WHAT IS RINGWORM?

- A fungal infection, NOT A WORM, that can affect animals AND people
- Many animals can get it including our cattle, sheep and goats as well as cats and dogs
- Most commonly affected animals are those with a weak immune system:
 - Young animals
 - Malnourished or diseased animals
- Animals get ringworm from direct contact with infective fungal spores that live in our environment
 - These infective spores can even be found on equipment like clippers and brushes or even shed hair from an infected animal
- Infected animals typically develop areas of hair loss with crusts that form on the exposed skin
 - Skin is red and itchy and these areas often form a ring shape, where the name 'Ringworm' comes from
- Ringworm is treatable, if you suspect it in one of your animals, isolate the animal and contact your nearest veterinarian or animal health technician



Ringworm in humans

- People can get ringworm from direct contact with an infected animal OR AN INFECTED PERSON
- The most common sign is a patch of itchy, crusting skin with a reddened, inflamed outline
- PREVENTION
 - The best way to prevent ringworm is to ensure good hygienic practices – wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after handling animals
 - Clean and disinfect areas where your animals live frequently
- 1 part bleach diluted with 10 parts water can kill fungal spores
 - If one of your animals has ringworm, use gloves and protective clothing when handling and treating the animal
 - If you have a weakened immune system then try not to

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handle animals with suspected ringworm

- o Contact your doctor or clinic if you develop signs. The earlier it is treated with antifungals, the quicker the recovery.

Reference:

Spickler, Anna Rovid. Dermatophytosis. March 2013.

<https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/dermatophytosis.pdf>

Contacts:

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