

Dog Skin Conditions: Ringworm

The cause, symptoms, and treatment of canine ringworm (dermatophytosis).

Generalized ringworm

Localized ringworm

Photos courtesy David A. Senter, DVM

Cause: Fungal infection, most commonly *Microsporum canis*, but other species of *Microsporum* or *Trichophyton* fungi also cause ringworm. Dogs acquire ringworm when they come into contact with infective fungal spores in the soil or on other animals (including cats), bedding, brushes, and other objects.

Symptoms: Ringworm can affect the skin, hair, and nails. The classic lesion is a round hairless patch circled by a rim of inflammation, but some dogs have different symptoms, including itchiness and reddened, scaly skin with bumps or pimples.

Treatment: Most dogs can recover from ringworm on their own, but treatment will keep them from spreading the disease to other animals and people. Medicated dips, shampoos, and ointments are usually effective, but oral antifungal medication such as griseofulvin or ketoconazole may be needed for resistant cases.

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