



THE BFLA CAT RINGWORM PROTOCOL

REVISION HISTORY

- 1/20/2019: Edited by [Editor]

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR WORK

While normal policies and procedures are to be followed with all ringworm populated areas, there are extra precautions to take as outlined here.

The animals are completely dependent upon you to provide quality care to them during the time that they are with us. It is extremely important that you also keep in mind the population of the shelter as a whole, to ensure that you are not potentially transferring ringworm to them. All of this is critical to the wellbeing of the cats and to the success of the Best Friends Los Angeles mission.

WHAT IS RINGWORM?

Ringworm is the most common name for the skin infection caused by a group of fungi; it is not caused by a worm at all. Most often it will cause a circular area of fur loss that is red and may be slightly raised. Ringworm can also have other characteristics, but these circular, hairless lesions are most common. Ringworm is similar to athlete's foot in people. It is a zoonotic disease, and thus is contagious to people and other animals; the young, old, and immunocompromised are more likely to get it.

DAILY RINGWORM SCHEDULE

Contamination Procedures

Wear protective clothing when working in a ringworm quarantine room or working with known affected animals (long sleeved gown, gloves, shoe covers or boots used only for that purpose).

Change gloves between cages when in our Ringworm Treatment Rooms. In addition to ringworm, we should minimize the spread of other diseases like URI and GI parasites.

Discard or launder contaminated clothing daily. This includes sweatshirts.

AM Feeding/Medicating

AM staff should complete feeding and medicating from the negative to the positive population, following the specified [Ringworm Categories](#). Prior to going into ringworm areas, print and pack up medications for AM meds. Start with feeding the entire room, giving the population a chance to eat while medications are done.



Afternoon Cleaning/Feeding

Observing Each Cat and Making Notations

Before you clean out the cat's kennel for the day, observe the cat's kennel, and, if any issues, write on white "Monitor" board in each room or fill out CGOs if necessary.

Litter Box: Observe the litter box to see if the cat has had a bowel movement. Note if the stool was loose (diarrhea) or if it consisted of only small, hard pellets – which may mean that the cat is constipated.

Vomiting: Note if the cat vomited, note if it was a normal hairball or, if not, document the nature of the vomit.

If there is diarrhea or vomit, and the cat is not already on medications, please complete a CGO.

Consumption of Food and Water: Note if the cat drank a large volume of water, or if the cat does not appear to be eating.

- It is very important that cats eat daily. If a cat fails to eat for two consecutive feedings, start a feeding chart.
- Drinking a large amount of water can indicate a serious health problem that will need treatment.

General Condition: Note the cat's general health. Is the cat alert? Is the cat listless? Are the eyes clear and bright? Is the cat sneezing?

- If there is a yellow or green discharge from the cat's eyes or nose, check to see if they are on meds. If not, complete a CGO.
- Note the cat's condition. If the cat has mats in their fur or if they have any new bald spots or sores and are not already on meds, complete a CGO.

Medical Emergency Criteria

- Labored breathing or panting
- Bleeding
- Excessive vomiting, vomiting blood
- Straining to urinate without producing any urine, not urinating in more than two days, bloody urine, excessive urination, or prolonged diarrhea
- Limping or paralysis, unconsciousness or seizures
- Unresponsive or listless

If any of these above conditions exist, get the kitten on heat, give a dose of dextrose, then contact a lead, manager, or vet staff immediately.

For kittens please be sure you are giving them a physical exam every day, as their health can change quickly. You want to check that:

- Weight is substantial, round bellies, spine not protruding



- Eyes are clear, third eyelids are not able to be seen, and eyes are free of any listlessness
- Coat is full or healing, no new patches of fur missing
- Ears look clean
- Hind area is clear, not swollen or red
- Able to stand and walk

Kennel Cleaning

Always Remember:

- You must wear a new pair of gloves for each kennel.
 - Start cleaning the top kennels and work your way down. Clean from the top down and inside out. Each kennel should be cleaned in a structured manner, starting with the least soiled surfaces and ending with the most soiled and contaminated areas, normally from the top down and the inside out. This method helps to prevent the spreading of potentially harmful materials such as bacteria, virus, or fungal microorganisms from the dirtier areas of the kennel to the entire kennel.
 - Never spray into a kennel with an animal inside.
 - The cat is to remain in the kennel.
- 1) It is most beneficial to the health of the cat to clean around the cat and keep the cat in the kennel.
 - a) If the cat has a towel or other comfort material, those items should not be removed unless very dirty or wet.
 - 2) Remove all soiled or dirty items from kennel.
 - a) Using a clean rag, wipe out all loose debris from the kennel. Discard rag in dirty laundry after use.
 - b) Use caution not to allow debris to fall into kennels below.
 - 3) Apply Rescue chemical to a clean rag. ***Do not spray chemical in the kennel with the cat inside (only for end of stay or contagious disease cleaning, when the cat has vacated the kennel).***
 - 4) Wipe out the interior of the kennel, concentrating particularly on areas that are visibly dirty.
 - 5) REPEAT from step THREE and clean the bars and the front of the kennel.
 - 6) Replace water using clean bowl (if needed) and always fresh water.
 - 7) Replace litter using fresh litter and a disposable tray.
 - 8) Complete inventory: This means going through your section and ensuring all animals have **all needed supplies**.
 - 9) When all kennel cleaning is done, wipe down all surfaces, including the tops of the kennels, mop and take out the room's laundry and trash.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER



Best Friends Animal Society

Los Angeles - SAVE THEM ALL™

- Anything that leaves the Ringworm Treatment Areas needs to be sanitized before it is placed with the general population of supplies.
- Do not use the same paper towel or rag on more than one kennel.
- Handle cats as little as possible, but do still give them love!
- Change gloves between each kennel.
- Document any illness or abnormalities as a CGO!
- Report any severely sick, injured, or behavior issues to a staff or lead.

Deep Cleaning

To be completed once a week during medicated baths, and when a cat has been moved out of the kennel in preparation for a new cat.

- 1) Follow all instructions above and additionally:
 - a) Wipe all dirt and debris out of the kennel.
 - b) Remove bowl hangers from door and place in kennel.
 - c) Spray diluted Dish soap, let soak, and wipe down the surfaces within kennel to remove all of the organic material first.
 - d) Spray Rescue (1:16 ratio) to cover all surfaces within kennel.
 - e) Ensure Rescue has a minimum of five minutes of contact time before wiping off with a clean rag.

Dishes

- 1) Wash dishes within the room they are in with dish soap and water
- 2) Spray all dishes down with Rescue and let it sit for 5 minutes
- 3) Rinse and lay out to dry

PM Feeding/Medicating

PM staff should complete feeding and medicating from the negative to the positive population, following the specified [Ringworm Categories](#). Prior to going into ringworm areas, print and pack up medications for PM meds. Start with feeding the entire room, giving the population a chance to eat while medications are done. Once meds are complete, move on to force feeding anyone in need.

INTAKE PROCEDURE

If cat is a ringworm suspect upon intake, they will be looked over by the medical staff to see if they have lesions and are wood's lamp positive. If they are, they will be temporarily moved to isolation while they wait for transport to Jefferson Park.

If they are negative for wood's lamp, but are still suspect, they will have a DTM pulled and will be placed in Pre-School and not available for adoption until the DTM results come back negative. If positive they will be transported to Jefferson Park for treatment.



MEDICATED BATHS

Each cat will need medicated baths with Lyme Sulfur solution twice a week. On Sundays, during medicated baths, the cat will be placed in a carrier to air-dry while their kennel is **deep cleaned** and set up with all new supplies. For their second bath of the week on Wednesdays, the cat will have a bath and their kennel will be cleaned normally (not a deep clean). Always moving from the negative to the positive population, following the specified [Ringworm Categories](#).

Schedule

Wednesday – Bath & Regular clean

Sunday– Bath & Deep clean

RELEASE PROCEDURE

To be completely cleared from ringworm the cats will go through a multistage process as designated by the medical team.

Step 1

The medical team will confirm a second negative DTM culture on the cat. We will perform one last Wood's Lamp test and medicated bath, If the Wood's lamp is negative the cat will graduate and be transported to Mission Hills.

Step 2

Once at Mission Hills, the cat will be placed in Kitty-Garden so that they will remain in an isolated space without interacting with other cats but are also adoptable and can be seen by the public. They will remain here for 2 weeks. They will also have a sign on their kennel that states "I'm recovering from an illness. Please wash your hands."

Step 3

Once the 2 weeks have passed, assuming the cat continues to be ringworm-free (no new lesions) and hasn't been adopted yet, they can be moved into the front communal cat areas and interact with other cats safely.