



FOSTERING KITTENS TREATED FOR RINGWORM

Neonatal Kittens are the most euthanized animals in shelters across the county. Fostering kittens treated for ringworm helps them heal faster and saves more lives.

What Foster Caregivers Should Know

Ringworm is a common, treatable skin fungus, similar to athlete's foot, that causes patchy hair loss and can affect kittens and people—but with simple precautions and care, it's very manageable in foster homes. If a kitten has already received at least one proper ringworm treatment, the risk of spreading ringworm is minimal. The spores have been neutralized and healing can begin.



What treatment means for you:

- Once treatment begins, the kitten is shedding far fewer- if any- ringworm spores. Lime Sulphur dip is the most effective way to treat ringworm
- After the first day or two of treatment, most kittens are considered low risk for spreading ringworm, especially when basic hygiene is followed.
- Many shelters and veterinarians safely place treated kittens into foster homes rather than keeping them isolated.



Simple precautions that make a big difference:

You do not need a sterile environment. These steps are usually sufficient:

- Wash hands after handling kittens
- Use washable bedding and laundry weekly
- Keep kittens in a smaller, easy-to-clean area if possible
- Avoid letting kittens share brushes or bedding with other pets until treatment is complete





What about other pets or people?

- Healthy adult cats and dogs are unlikely to get ringworm from a treated kitten.
- Most people do not get ringworm, and when they do, it is easily treated.
- Children and immunocompromised individuals should avoid direct contact with active lesions, but normal household interaction is safe.



Important reassurance:

- A kitten can still test positive on a culture without being contagious.
- Ringworm is common, manageable, and temporary.
- Fostering a treated kitten does not mean your home will “get ringworm.”



Why Fosters Matter

By fostering kittens already in treatment, you:

- Help them heal faster in a low-stress home
- Free up shelter space
- Save lives



*I want
more help!*

**Thank you for being
an advocate for these
tiny lives. You can find
more foster resources
on our website.**

