



# 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 athletes 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 launder 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.**



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