

DERMATOPHYTOSIS

WHAT IS DERMATOPHYTOSIS?

Dermatophytosis, also called mycosis or ringworm, is a disease of the hair and skin caused by certain pathogenic fungi, called dermatophytes. It is a contagious disease that can be transmitted by contact from the affected person to humans or other cohabiting animals.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?

Contagion occurs through direct contact with a sick animal or person, or through the use and sharing of materials or structures contaminated by the fungal spores released into the environment (e.g., clothing, blankets, grooming tools, kennel, carrier). The spores are very resistant and can cause infection many months after their production. Some animals, especially long-haired cats, can carry fungal spores on their coats without developing the disease, and, therefore, act as a source of contagion to both cohabiting animals and those household members most susceptible, such as children and the elderly.

It is important to treat the environment where a sick cat lives since infected hair disperses throughout the house and remains infectious for about a year.

Bleach is very effective for treating environments contaminated with dermatophytes