

RINGWORM INFECTION

AS IT SOUNDS, ONE WOULD THINK THAT RINGWORM **IS AN ACTUAL WORM THAT** INVADES THE BODY. THIS IS WRONG, IN FACT, RINGWORM IS A FUNGUS THAT INVADES THE HAIR FOLLICLES AND CAUSES INFECTION.

RINGWORM IS A FUNGUS THAT CAN INFECT ALL MAMMALS INCLUDING HUMAN BEINGS.

MOST COMMONLY, RINGWORM IS SEEN IN YOUNG ANIMALS, INCLUDING PUPPIES, KITTENS AND GUINEA PIGS. FARM ANIMALS OFTEN HAVE RINGWORM AS WELL. IT IS CONTAGIOUS TO PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE VERY YOUNG AND OLD.

ONE OF THE SYMPTOMS IS A CIRCULAR LESION ON THE SKIN, AND IN HUMANS THE LESIONS TEND TO BE RED AND DRY, AND MAY BE ITCHY.

IN FUR BEARING MAMMALS, THE LESIONS APPEAR CIRCULAR, GREY AND BALD, AND YOUR PET MAY OR MAY NOT BE ITCHY AT THE LESION SITE.

IF YOUR PET SHOWS ANY OF THESE SIGNS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN AND OF COURSE YOUR FAMILY PHYSICIAN IF ANY OF YOUR FAMILY APPEAR TO BE AFFECTED.

NEXT MONTH, MY "ASK THE PROFESSIONAL LETTER" WILL BE ADVICE TO READERS CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING HEARTWORM SEASON, OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY, THE FORTHCOMING "SPRING" SEASON, WHICH SOUNDS MORE ENTICING.