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RINGWORM IN HORSES

What is ringworm?

Ringworm is a fungal infection (not a worm) which can affect all animals including humans. The young are more susceptible. The fungus lives in the soil but can also be transmitted between animals, with horses this is usually through sharing brushes and tack

What does ringworm look like?

Initially it appears as a raised area of skin, after a few days the hair falls out creating the typical circular appearance. Itchiness is sometimes present.

How is ringworm treated?

Ringworm lesions heal on their own, however this process can take 1-3months and in the meantime the affected horse is a risk to other horses (and humans!) The most cost-effective treatment is Betadine solution applied every 2 days for 4-5 treatments (use gloves during application). Remember that any tack, brushes or rugs that have come in contact with the horse must also be soaked in betadine, leather ware can be fumigated with formaldehyde.

