M-06 RINGWORM

**Purpose**

To define the process of caring for animals diagnosed with, or suspected of, ringworm.

**Policy**

Animals suspected of having ringworm will be tested and, if warranted, given a treatment plan. The shelter veterinarian and/or the director of animal logistics must approve any changes or deviations from this protocol.

**Staff /Areas Affected**

Veterinary staff

Admitting staff

Animal care staff

Foster Coordinator

Foster Veterinary Technician

Customer service

**Definitions**

**Ringworm** - a contagious, but treatable, fungal infection of the skin characterized by hair loss and circular, red and scaly patches of skin

**ShelterLuv** – Database used by HSWM for all tracking of customers, animals and associated service

**Rescue** - Fear Free cleaning solution used for disinfecting

**Cross Contamination** – the process by which bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another, with harmful effect.

**Responsibilities**

* Vet staff will test any animals suspected of having ringworm to properly diagnose
* Vet staff will create a treatment plan and dispense any required medications
* Animal care staff clean housing area and feed animals
* Vet staff will administer daily oral medication and twice weekly lime sulfur dips
* Foster coordinator will place animals into foster homes for the remainder of their treatment
* Foster veterinary technician will provide education to foster homes and coordinate follow-ups
* Customer service will provide education to the public in the event the animal is adopted

**Procedures**

1. If ringworm is suspect (waiting for fungal culture results):
2. Animal will not be available until confirmed diagnosis and treatment has started.
3. Suspect cases will be placed in isolation. and will not come in contact with other animals, except litter mates.
4. A “Ringworm Suspect” sign will be placed on kennel with instructions for animal care to follow when cleaning and handling.
5. Gloves must be work at all time when handling suspect animal and their belongings.

2. Staff will submit a vet check request on an animal with hair loss or crusting of the skin.

3. Vet staff will perform diagnostic tests (Wood’s Lamp, fungal culture, PCR) to diagnose the lesions.

4. Animals that are awaiting diagnosis are to be treated (cleaned with gloves, staff only) until confirmation of ringworm status is obtained. Animals 8 weeks of age or over 1.5lbs will be fully bathed in lime sulfur. Animals younger or small can be spot treated with lyme sulfur using a washcloth.

5. Vet staff will devise a treatment plan for ringworm positive animals consisting of oral antifungal medications and topical lime sulfur.

6. Animal care staff will clean and feed ringworm positive animals.

7. Kennels should be fully cleaned (removal of all items, mechanical cleaning, disinfectant) at least twice weekly. Laundry from ringworm kennels should be put through the wash cycle with bleach, twice, and dried on high heat. Items that are not able to be laundered (kennels, bowls, toys, litter boxes) should be washed and allowed to sit in a 1:16 Rescue solution for 5 minutes.

8. Vet staff will perform or delegate, lime sulfur dips twice weekly and track dip dates on the animal’s kennel/cage. Vet staff will administer daily oral medications.

9. At any time during the treatment process animals may be placed into foster homes by the Foster Coordinator. If placed in a foster home, the foster family assumes the responsibility of finishing medication and dips. The foster Vet Tech will coordinate recheck appointments with the foster home and vet staff. All ringworm animals sent to foster are sent with a Ringworm Foster Manual.

10. At any time during the treatment process animals are able to be adopted. ‘Fee Waived’. Animals made available for adoption will have a Ringworm Adoption disclaimer added to their record by vet staff, to be signed by the adopter. Customer service will review the animal’s medical summary as well as any remaining treatments, with the adopter. All medications are provided to the adopter but the adopter must complete the final recheck with their chosen primary veterinarian, to confirm the animal no longer has ringworm.

11. Animals not adopted during their ringworm treatment will be rechecked for ringworm prior to being placed up for adoption.  If any lesions are still present, vet staff will Wood's lamp and culture the area, continue treatment, and recheck in one week.

12. Once an animal has been treated and is moved out of isolation, their kennel/cage will be deep cleaned by animal care staff. All organic matter is mechanically removed. All kennel/cage surfaces are cleaned with a 1:16 Rescue solution. This process is repeated THREE times. Soft toys and beds are either disposed of or cleaned and designated as use for ringworm animals only.

**Revision History**

V1 - Created 10/16/20