

# Ringworm Adoption

## PURPOSE

This document defines APA! policy and procedures for adoptions of Ringworm cats.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all APA! staff and volunteers responsible for cat adoptions. These procedures are in addition to traditional cat adoption policies of APA! and are to be implemented only for Ringworm cats.

## POLICY

APA! staff and volunteers to process Ringworm cat adoptions in accordance with these documented procedures. These documented procedures to accompany the standard adoption policies and procedures of APA! when processing Ringworm cat adoptions.

## PROCEDURES

### Pre-Adoptions

1. When a pre-adopted animal is discovered to have ringworm at surgery, the clinic staff will fill the appropriate medications and disclose what ringworm is and how to treat to the adopter. Should the adopter have concerns or additional questions they should be directed to the **Ringworm Adoption Center** for further information.
2. Pre-adopters who decide they no longer wish to keep the adopted animal are to be directed to the cattery for formal surrender back to APA!

### Ringworm Adoptions

1. The following steps should be followed when adopting out a cat that is currently undergoing treatment for ringworm, in addition to the standard adoption procedures.
  - a. Immediately notify potential adopter that the cat they are interested in adopting is currently undergoing treatment for ringworm. Adopters should be made aware ringworm is contagious to both animals and humans. Adopters are welcome to interact with the cat, but they should not interact with non-ringworm animals after doing so.
  - b. Provide Ringworm Adoption Packet to potential adopters prior to proceeding with adoption process.
2. Advise potential adopters regarding what is involved in treating ringworm in their home:
  - a. Ringworm treatment can last anywhere from 4-10 weeks (some cats can clear up faster in the low stress environment of a home, but others may last longer than 10 weeks if the infection is severe or other medical complications slow the progress of treatment).
  - b. APA! will provide enough medication to last the adopter 3 weeks of treatment. After this course of treatment, adopters are advised to continue treatment and rechecks with their private veterinarian.
  - c. Should the animal have a negative reaction to any treatments, the adopter should take the cat to their own veterinarian.

3. In addition to the standard adoption interview and counseling, information specific to ringworm should be discussed. Cover important topics found in the FAQ sheet including quarantine in the household (especially if adopter has other pets in the home), lyme dipping, how to administer oral medication, and post clearance clean up procedures.
4. Ringworm Waiver must be signed and original kept on file in the ward, copy provided to the adopter.
5. Adopters should be sent home with the amount of Terbinafine needed until the cat's next scheduled recheck (if the animal is eligible to receive oral anti-fungals), as well as enough concentrated lime sulfur dip for three weeks.
  - a. Adopted animals are not allowed to be brought into the ward to receive lyme dips.
  - b. The clinic may need to refill Terbinafine prescriptions in short time frames. If a refill needs to be rushed, the adoption counselor will verbally notify the clinic manager/TLAC tech when turning in the request.
  - c. Should an adoption counselor have questions regarding an animal's eligibility to receive terbinafine, the Ringworm manager and/or TLAC tech will assist.
6. Additional questions or progress of a cats ringworm treatment should be directed to the **Ringworm Team** at [ringworm@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:ringworm@austinpetsalive.org). If an adopter's question is outside the scope of knowledge of the ringworm team it will be forwarded to the med techs.

### **Tarrytown Adoptions**

1. When spayed/neutered ringworm cats are adopted from foster at the Tarrytown location, an email requesting medication will be sent to the ringworm manager, clinic managers, and med techs.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For questions regarding this policy, contact document author.

Reference document CAT-AL-PP-Adoption for additional policies and procedures associated with cat adoptions.