

Lime Sulfur Dip Protocol

PURPOSE

This document defines APA! policy and procedures when administering a Lime Sulfur Dip for the treatment of ringworm in cats.

SCOPE

These policies and procedures apply to all staff and volunteers responsible for, or assisting with, APA! Cat Program and Ringworm Wards.

POLICY

APA! staff and volunteers will administer lime sulfur dips, a ringworm treatment, according to these documented procedures.

PROCEDURES

I. Age/Health Restrictions

A. Neonatal Kittens-Spot Treatment

1. For all kittens under the age of 6 weeks old, **or** weighing less than 1.5 pounds, neonatal ringworm procedures should be implemented. The only treatment recommended is **2 x per week** spot application of diluted lime sulfur dip. If a kitten has a negative reaction to the spot treatment, discontinue and have kitten re-checked by a DVM.
 - a) When ringworm is diagnosed in one kitten of the litter, the entire litter is considered "exposed to ringworm" and the medical records of each should reflect such exposure.
 - b) Should any of the exposed kittens from that litter begin showing signs of ringworm, spot treat all kittens from the litter.

B. Kittens 6-8 Weeks of Age-Dip Treatment w/ Heat Source

1. Kittens 6 to 8 weeks old should be treated **2 x per week** with a lime sulfur dip and given a heat source while drying. Kittens are not eligible to receive oral medication at this time. If a kitten has a negative reaction to the dip, discontinue and have kitten re-checked by a DVM.
 - a) When ringworm is diagnosed in one kitten of the litter, the entire litter is considered "exposed to ringworm" and the medical records of each should reflect such exposure.
 - b) Exposed kittens at this age should also be dipped as a preventative measure.

C. Over 8 Weeks-Dip Treatment w/o Heat Source

1. All cats/kittens should receive **2 x per week** lime sulfur dips. If a cat/kitten has a negative reaction to the dip treatment, discontinue and have re-checked by a DVM. Cats/kittens weighing 2 pounds or more may be eligible to receive oral treatment of Terbinafine in addition to dip treatments, see CATS-RW-PP-Oral Treatment document.

D. Older, Injured, Aggressive

1. Occasionally, a cat will come into the ward that cannot be dipped. It may be very old, have an injury or orthopedic condition that makes firm handling painful, or be very aggressive when dipping is attempted. These cats may need to be spot dipped, using a cotton ball to apply dip solution to areas of ringworm infection, throughout their stay on the ward. A washcloth soaked

with dip can be run over these cats' coats as well, to help kill spores they may have picked up in their coats.

2. On a rare occasion, a cat maybe unable to be treated for various reasons. In those cases, the cat will remain in the Ringworm ward until it is resolved. The **Ringworm Manager** should notify the clinic of the difficulties with the treatment.

II. Supplies

- A. Assemble the following:
 1. Lime Sulfur Treatment (Lyme Dip)
 2. Measuring Cup
 3. Rubber Gloves
 4. Plastic Container (sized to fit the body of cat, ex: litter box with high sides)
 5. Wash Cloth (for dip application on head/body)
 6. Large Cotton Balls and/or Toothbrush
 7. Clean Carrier

III. Treatment Considerations

- A. Recently spayed/neutered cats: Wait 14 days after being spayed and 7 days after being neutered to lime dip
- B. Cats **are not** eligible to receive a full lime dip until they weigh 1.5 pounds. Any kitten smaller than this should follow the neonatal procedures, spot treatments with a cotton ball.
- C. Any cat that has open wounds or is experiencing medical issues that may be made worse by irritation (eye infections, bacterial infections of the skins, ear infections, etc.) should not be dipped without consulting a veterinarian.
- D. This treatment will change the color of metal, remove jewelry prior to proceeding.
- E. This treatment emits an odor similar to that of a rotten egg.
- F. Keep towels used for dipping separate from regular laundry to prevent smell transfer.
- G. Wear old clothes to prevent yellowing of attire exposed to dip.
- H. Dip will cause the fur of the cats to turn yellow, fades quickly.
- I. Administering lime dips is much easier with two people.

IV. Lime Dip Dilution Ratio

- A. A 1:16 ratio of lime sulfur dip to water is typically used. This higher concentration is more efficacious than the standard 1:32, but may cause reactions in some cats. These cats should be dipped in 1:32 concentration instead.

V. Lime Sulfur Dip

- A. Have a carrier ready with a small towel in the bottom to place the cat in after dipping, so that they may drip dry. This helps reduce the smell and the potential of staining.
 1. Find a warm, well ventilated room to dip.
 2. Put on rubber gloves to protect your hands.
 3. Pour 8 oz. of Lyme dip and 1 gallon of warm water into the plastic dipping tub.
 4. Scruff cat and lower them into the warm Lyme dip solution.
 5. Pour solution over cat, making sure to get them completely wet down to the skin; this might require rubbing the solution onto the cat.
 6. Squeeze feet gently to extract claws and dip feet; ringworm can hide in cat's nail beds.

7. Use a cotton ball to get the face wet, paying extra attention to the ears, nose, whiskers and chin. The solution burns delicate mucus membranes so be as careful as possible on the facial area, especially around nose and eyes. If dip gets into eyes (of animals or humans), they should be flushed with fresh water.
8. Once cat is sufficiently soaked over its entire body, wrap it in a clean towel to remove excess dip.
9. Place cats in clean carrier and allow them to air dry. Small kittens should be placed together, with a small heat source, to ensure they stay warm while drying.
10. Repeat these steps twice a week as needed.

VI. Treatment Precautions

- A. Lyme dip is a sulfur based topical antifungal treatment administered 2 x per week, minimum of 3 days between each. Over treatment (over dipping) will cause a sudden loss of hair, which can be confused with ringworm lesions, especially on the delicate skin of the ears. If this happens, discontinue topical treatment and observe the spot. Hair should begin to regrow within a week or so.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions regarding this policy, contact document author.