

Hey Volunteers!

I just wanted to reach out and talk to you all about ringworm within animal shelters.

By working and volunteering at an animal shelter, there is always a possibility of being exposed to certain diseases/infections that are common in a shelter environment! One of those is RINGWORM!

While we have a pretty cautious and rigorous intake process, which includes the animals being thoroughly examined before being moved out of our intake department, there are of course instances where the animals do not start to show symptoms until after the intake process. This is why it is so important for our staff and volunteers to carefully follow protocol, which includes;

- No handling of animals in the intake department (by touching these animals you are possibly exposing other animals to dangerous diseases/infections)
- Carefully handle certain animals in our holding area, wearing gloves if necessary.
- Often sanitizing between kennels
- Always let staff know if you see something out of the ordinary!

**Ringworm symptoms are:**

-hairloss

-broken or stubby hair

-crusty skin or dandruff

-excessive grooming and scratching

-infected or inflamed claws or nail beds

If you do notice any of these, please let a staff member know and make sure you thoroughly sanitize your arms and hands. Remember, ringworm IS contagious, to humans as well as other animals. If you do handle an animal that is showing symptoms of ringworm or any other disease or sickness, it is important to wash your hands and to not handle any other animal. If you do have pets at home, and have handled an animal here with something like ringworm, it is important to change clothes and wash hands before loving on your personal fur baby.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at all! Thank you all so much!