

Environmental Cleaning for cats with Ringworm

This is a little more directed handout on how to effectively clean your house when your cat has been diagnosed with ringworm.

- Cleaning
 - Must perform a Hard clean. Hard cleaning is the gross removal of organic material or debris. This can be done by sweeping and vacuuming, physically scrubbing the surfaces of counters and hard flooring. Using a detergent to clean until the surface are visibly clean.
 - “One Step” cleaners cannot replace the physical work of Hard Cleaning. It is imperative that hard cleaning is performed prior to the use of “one step” cleaners. These cleaners and disinfectants are to be used after hard cleaning is performed and often in between hard cleanings. Contact time for these products should be at least 10 minutes
 - Hard Cleaning should be performed at least twice a week
 - Detergents and disinfectants to select for hard cleaning include products that contain Accelerate Hydrogen Peroxide, Sodium Hypochlorite, Quaternary ammonium, Lactic Acid, or Ethoxylated Alcohol mixture
- Cleaning for specific surfaces
 - Hard surfaces (any non-porous surface)
 1. Remove debris (hair)
 2. Wash with soap and water until visibly clean
 3. Rinse with water
 4. Apply disinfectant
 5. At least 1-2 times weekly
 6. Between cleanings, remove debris, dust, and use ‘one step cleaners
 - Wood floors/Floors/Specialty counter tops
 - Removal of debris
 - Repeated washing
 - Detergent using flat mop (3M Flat Mop)
 - Murphy’s Wood Oil Soap or something similar
 - Recommended 3M easy Trapper (3M company)
 - Windows/Walls/Ledges
 - Unless large number of cats in house, it is not necessary to clean these areas
 - If cat hair is visible in these areas, using Swiffer Dusters or equivalent to remove dust, webs, and hair
 - Soft surfaces/Laundry
 1. Change blankets and bedding daily

2. Store expose laundry in plastic bad until washed and keep separate from other laundry
 3. Hot or cold water ok
 4. Bleach is optional
 - a. If used, use 1 cup per laundry tub
 5. Do not overstuff laundry tub
 6. Use longest was cycle
 7. Use high water levels
 8. Wash twice, two cycles
 9. Wash pet laundry at end of day
 10. Mechanically clean out laundry and lint trap
 11. Spray laundry tub with disinfectant after use and then run a load of water only
- Dry cleaning only
 - Tell merchants clothes were soiled by animals so they will handle appropriately
 - Studies showed dry cleaning techniques decontaminated clothes adequately
 - Carpets
 - Keep infected cats OFF carpet; most difficult to decontaminate
 - Routine vacuuming
 - Steam cleaning is preferred over washing
 - Chemically decontaminated
 1. Vacuum to remove debris
 2. Thoroughly spray carpet with disinfectant (accelerated hydrogen peroxide, Trifectant, Simple Green, any quaternary ammonium compound)
 3. Use carpet shampooer or deck brush and scrub carpet; allow contact for at least 10 minutes
 4. Using carpet scrubber wash carpet
 5. Rinse carpet with water only until no more foaming
 - Bowls/Litterboxes/Carriers
 - Wash with hot water and dish soap
- What to get rid of:
 - Cat trees
 - If it is new with limited exposure; may be able to disinfect using carpet protocol
 - Pet Sweaters
 - Unless it is extremely meaningful, discard
 - Non-Metal Collars