

# ***Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services***

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## **Dermatophytosis (Ringworm)**

Although ringworm is considered to be contagious, it is not easily spread between animals unless there is shared feeding equipment or grooming utensils and blankets. The presence of ringworm spores in many farm environments does not often result in dermatitis.

Dermatophytosis is a self limiting condition that usually resolves without any therapy at all in 4 to 10 weeks. Treatment is usually prescribed to hasten the recovery and to control spread.

Spread is controlled by sanitation measures that prevent direct animal to animal physical contact. This can be accomplished by:

- housing horses in separate stalls and paddocks
- feeding with separate utensils, buckets and pails
- grooming with brushes that are specific to the horse
- using halters, blankets and other tack that are specific only to each individual horse

All animal handlers should be in the habit of careful hand washing after handling any animal and these measures should prevent the spread of this condition. Any equipment considered to be contaminated should be cleaned and decontaminated with bleach.