

Ringworm

- Caused by a fungus; evidenced by grayish, crusty, circular scabs.
- All cattle may be affected, but most common in calves and heifers; most commonly affected areas are the head and neck.
- People can become infected from cattle.
- The fungus may survive up to 4 years in dry scales shed by the animal. Animals are exposed by direct or indirect contact with infected animals or equipment.
- Predisposing factors include crowding, lack of sunlight, damp stalls, and infestations of lice (lice spread the fungal spores).

To treat:

1. Remove the crusts with a stiff brush and mild soap and water.
 2. Apply TBZ paste topically (TBZ is a fungicide in addition to a wormer), or 4-7% tincture of iodine; as an alternative spray the entire body with a captan solution (under veterinary direction).
 3. Deworm orally with Rumatel® at the normal dose.
 4. Maintain high vitamin A levels in the diet.
 5. Treat orally with Griseofulvin if cost is not important (for example, a valuable show animal).
- Left untreated, ringworm generally disappears in the summer when animals are exposed to sunlight (the fungus is killed by UV light).
 - A thorough cleaning of the housing areas with disinfectant (4 - 5 oz. of bleach per gallon of water) is necessary to get rid of the fungal spores.

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