

Let's Get Practical! Top Tips for Effective Ringworm Management in the Shelter

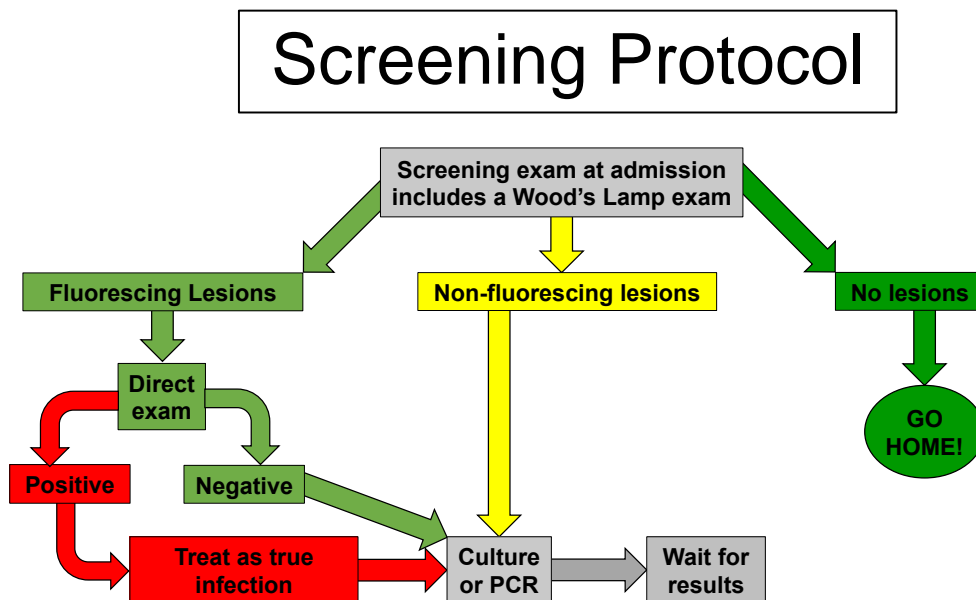
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Top Takeaways:

- A Wood's Lamp is a valuable screening tool and should be used on all cats upon intake.
- Ringworm in dogs is often *M. gypseum* and requires less intensive treatment than *M. canis*; identify the species of ringworm to determine appropriate treatment!
- Red color change on culture plate does not equal infection.
- *Quantitative* results (via a Pathogen score, aka P- score- not just positive or negative) on a fungal culture will help you determine next steps.
- You **MUST** identify the species of ringworm (via microscopy).
- Use a treatment sandwich (lime sulfur + itraconazole or terbinafine).
- Do not use compounded itraconazole.
- Always remember hearts and minds!



Wood's Lamp

A Wood's lamp is an ultraviolet light with a specific wavelength of light which causes *Microsporum canis* to fluoresce. A true Wood's lamp should be used, as opposed to a generic UV light. Wood's lamps fluoresce at a particular wavelength (360 nm).

- A plug-in, rather than battery model, is ideal as the stronger light is more likely to generate fluorescence.
- Perform the exam in a completely dark room, and allow your eyes to adjust before performing the exam
- Hold the lamp no more than 4-10 cm away from the animal.

- Look the animal over carefully, especially on the face, feet, belly, and inside the ears.
- [Here](#) is an excellent video of how to do a thorough Wood's lamp exam.
- [Here](#) is an example of an appropriate Wood's lamp (Model UVL-21).

Wood's lamps come with magnification, like the one on the lower left or without (lower right). The magnifier is helpful for people performing the examination solo; however, it is difficult to have two people look through the magnifier at once. In shelters that are often training new staff or teaching students, a Wood's lamp without the magnifier allows multiple people to view a lesion at the same time.

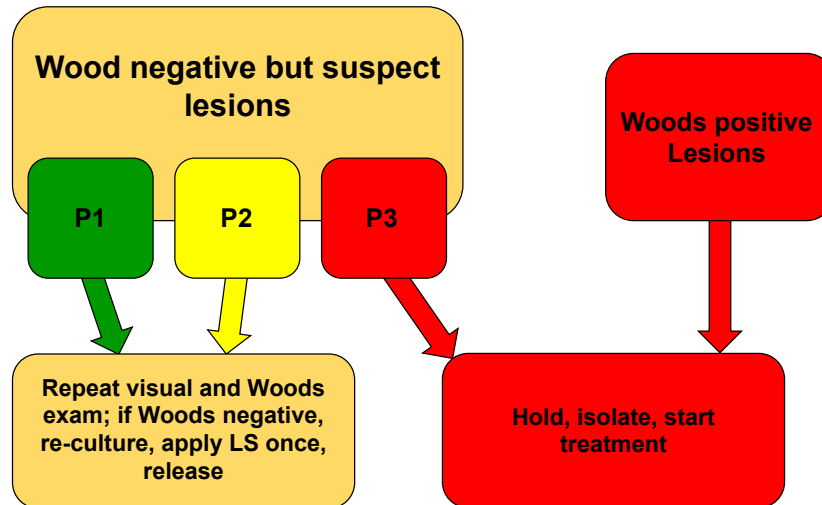


How to make a homemade incubator:

- Use any clean plain plastic bin with a lid.
- Place on top of a low-heat heating pad wrapped in a towel (the ones without timed auto-shutoff are ideal, such as the ones that come with some dog beds). Place a fish tank thermometer and a damp paper towel in the bin and monitor a 2-3 times per day before using it for cultures to determine what the temperature range in the bin is. The ideal temperature range is 80-86 °F (27-30 °C).
- If the temperature is too warm place additional layers between the bin and the heating pad. If the temperature is too cool reduce the layers or wrap the entire bin in layers to help hold in the heat.



Response plan for suspect animals with positive cultures for *M. canis*



Additional Resources:

- [UW Ringworm Guidebook](#)
- [Diagnosis and treatment of dermatophytosis in dogs and cats.: Clinical Consensus Guidelines of the World Association for Veterinary Dermatology, 2017](#)
- [“Feline Dermatophytosis Aspects Pertinent to Disease Management in Single and Multiple Cat Situations.” Dr. Karen Moriello Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery](#)
- ASPCAPro.org webinar series: [Beating Ringworm](#)
- Check out our library! www.uwsheltermedicine.com