



SOUTHERN AFRICA CAT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 28732, Kensington, 2101, Tel 011-6167017,
Fax 0866168294, sacatreg@iafrica.com, www.tsacc.org.za

SACC e News

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Southern Africa Cat Council

P O Box 28732

Kensington

2101

Tel: 011- 616 7017

Fax: 011-622 6301

Email: sacatreg@iafrica.com

Website: www.tsacc.org.za

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm

Friday: 9am— 1pm

SACC Management Team

President: Ngaio Crawley

Vice President: N/A

Treasurer/ SACC Show

Manager: Jan van Rooyen

Secretary: Shirley Addison

SACC Office Manager/Registrar:

Johan van Rooyen

The Governing Council Delegates:

Colin Bubb (ABCC)

Elizabeth van Reenen (CFC)

Rita Wiseman (EPCC)

Wendy Welham (NCFSCC)

Jacqui Dawson (PCS)

Jan van Rooyen (RCC)

Krystle Callaghan (TBCC)

Beryl Webber (TCS)

Jane Slabbert (WPCC)

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Message from President

We are almost at the end of another year, so may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours much festivity over the holiday period- may you have enough to eat & drink, may you enjoy the company of a loving family and/or good friends and may you be surrounded by your beautiful cats. Be safe if you have to travel, give as much kindness as you receive and ignore all negative or derogatory remarks- remember that "private conversations" become gossip when repeated and/or embellished.

The World Cat Congress will be held in New Zealand in March 2015 and the GC Delegate from WPCC, Jane Slabbert will attend as SACC Delegate. She will provide a visit report from the congress which will be forwarded to SACC Members.

SACC GC will be hosting COTY 2015. The Delegates are very enthusiastic and are already working behind the scenes for the event.

Coty will be held in Gauteng in August, so if you plan to campaign cats for COTY qualification- now is the time to decide on a do-able budget/plan which works for you, so that when the scorekeepers tell you that you have made it to COTY you will be motivated and organized!

Have a Great 2015.

Ngaio.

RINGWORM

By kind permission of the author.

By Dr Anthony Zambelli

*BSc(Hon)(Zool)BVSc DiplSenMgmt
MMedVet(Med)*

Specialist Veterinary Physician.

Ringworm is not a worm at all, but actually a type of fungus.

Fungi that grow in the environment or generally coat surfaces (including skin) are called saprophytes. Most cases of ringworm occur in specific breeds (eg Persian Cats), after particular activities (digging or injuries), and particular environments (eg catteries, multi-cat households). It is a highly variable disease which can be extremely difficult to eradicate.

The correct name for a superficial fungal infection of the skin is dermatophytosis- the correct term to use. Three families are responsible for most cases of dermatophytosis – Microsporum, Trichophyton and Epidermophyton. The fungi invade and multiply in the most superficial layers of the skin. Dermatophytosis can be a zoonosis (transmitted to humans from animals). When the fungi cross species they can cause more damage (be more pathogenic) or less so. Some fungi can be very contagious, but not very pathogenic; others are hard to catch, and cause serious lesions. The same applies within the species; it may spread like wildfire but not cause major lesions. As in humans, immunosuppressed individuals (eg cats with FIV or FeLV infections) may suffer more from a dermatophyte infection.

Cats become infected by direct contact with an infected animal or a contaminated environment. For Trichophyton, contact with rats can initiate the infection. The environment is far more important as a source of infection than previously thought, and contaminated homes, collars, bedding, brushes, toys, carriers etc can be important sources of infection and re-infection.

When an infective spore contacts a cat's coat, there are many factors that influence whether or

not successful infection occurs:

- Feline grooming behaviour and the presence of other parasites such as fleas which damage the skin, allowing invasion;
- Skin hydration and maceration. Very wet, humid environments encourage infection, dry environments reduce the risk;
- Higher temperatures encourage fungal growth;
- UV radiation may inhibit fungal growth (sunbathing) although it increases the risk of skin cancer; and
- Excessive bathing and grooming.

There are also several risk factors which predispose to infection, such as:

- Nutritional status;
- Fleas, ticks, mites (Mange) or lice infestation;
- Very young or old;
- Corticosteroid therapy or Chemotherapy;
- Colony life;
- Cancer, FeLV (feline leukaemia virus infection), FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus).

The cat's own immunity is the most important factor determining whether or not the cat develops a chronic carrier state or clears itself of infection.

So what does dermatophytosis look like?

The first thing to remember: if it looks like ringworm in the adult animal, in probably isn't! In younger animals, the more classical "ring" lesions of hair loss are more typical, but not all the time. Hair loss can be very subtle, but the face is the most commonly affected area since it is hard for the cat to self clean this area. In Persian cats, this condition can be limited to the tail, mimicking so called "stud tail" (a localised hormonal disease) or cause nodules called eumycetomas. The latter are also more common in cats with FIV,

but beware! They can also look like feline "TB" or various tumours or allergic skin "plaques" of the "eosinophilic granuloma complex". This is why skin lesions should never be treated empirically, but investigated and biopsied, as the wrong treatment could be hazardous to both cat and owner.

All in all, dermatophytosis should never be considered a focal, restricted disease because the spores spread easily over the entire cat, its housemates and the environment. It is a systemic disease and an environmental contaminant.

How will the Vet diagnose dermatophytosis?

Diagnosis is based on:

- A clinical history, including a dermatological history (more extensive);
- A physical examination;
- Evaluation under an ultra-violet "Woods Lamp" (picks up 50% of Microsporum canis infections);
- A trichogram (direct examination of plucked hair shafts under a microscope);
- Fungal culture (takes 12 – 21 days on special culture medium, so be patient!); and
- Skin biopsies.

Treatment and management.

Infected cats.

CLIP THE COAT

Unless you clip the coats of longhaired cats, you simply CANNOT eliminate the infection. It removes infected hairs, and minimises the risks of re-infection and continual recontamination. Clinically the signs will worsen in about a week. Short-haired cats with focal lesions don't necessarily have to be clipped. Cats receiving a clip should have systemic (oral) therapy. Griseofulvin is a slow acting, effective but potentially dangerous drug for use in infected cats. It is not suitable for pregnant, FIV positive or very young cats. Other drugs your vet might administer include one of the azoles, or for topical lesions, topical

treatments such as shampoos. Most of the topical "lotions" are of questionable efficacy. Clipping and topical therapy should NOT be combined – it causes a worsening of the skin problem.

In many instances, kittens will self cure and do not require therapy. They should be separated from the mother as early as possible, usually at 4 weeks and hand reared. Before selling on such a kitten, the vet should be consulted for repeat fungal cultures.

Therapy takes at least 10 weeks to be completely effective, a couple of weeks is just not enough.

Treating the environment

Destroy bedding, toys, brushes, scratching posts and so on. Decontaminate the carrier/environment by vacuuming (even ceilings!) then triple disinfection with a sporicidal agent. In a cattery, make sure there is plenty of ventilation.

After disinfection and anti-fungal agent should be applied to all surfaces. These are caustic, irritant substances and thus cats should not be in contact with wet surfaces, and gloves should be worn when applying the agents, as well as a mask and goggles. A 1:10 or 1:100 solution of household bleach is the easiest, readily available anti-fungal.

Preventing transmission

Check all in-contact cats with fungal cultures, and isolate all positive cats. In a colony, assume all cats are affected. **Treating only the "asymptomatic" cats in a colony, without establishing the true culture status, just embeds the infection in a musical chairs fashion.** Do not introduce any new cats, and don't show, sell or lend out cats for stud purposes. Systemic therapy is necessary (except for pregnant queens – check by ultrasound) with clipping of longhaired cats. Importantly, don't neglect flea control!

Preventing recurrence.

A negative culture is a prerequisite for the movement IN or OUT of the colony. While awaiting results, isolate the cat in question.

CONCLUSION

There are no shortcuts in diagnosing or treating this disease, but because of the risk of rampant infection, infestation and human infection, there is some urgency in diagnosing suspected cases as dermatophytosis or some other disease.

REFERENCE

Gauguère, E & Prélaud, P A
Practical Guide to Feline Dermatology 1999. Meriel

CATNIP – TRUTH OR MYTH?

Copy supplied by Dr Zambelli

Catnip is a perennial herb with whitish flowers and furry stalks and leaves. It has been known about for hundreds of years, although its use in traditional (human) medicine has fallen out of favour because more effective remedies have been discovered. It is most famous for its effects on cats – driving them moggy! This is all very amusing for the owners but what does it do for the cats, and how?

Plants all contain many, many compounds, but one – NEPETALIC ACID – is a volatile substance (ie, easily liberated into the air). Cats can smell this product in concentrations as low as 1 part in a 100 billion parts air. It makes some cats meow, growl, fall about, groom excessively, pant or sleep. Not all cats are affected like this – some are oblivious to it! Also, sensitivity to catnip is genetic, and carried within families.

It used to be thought that catnip mimicked a feline pheromone, but this has been disproven. It also used to be believed that catnip was an aphrodisiac because the behaviour patterns were similar to oestrus ("heat/call") behaviour, but this is not

so, and neutered cats behave in the same manner. There is no effect on reproductive behaviour!

Most non-domesticated cats (except Tigers) respond to catnip, although in one recent study in Brazil, oncilla cats paced less and were more relaxed with cinnamon than with catnip! Catnip also lasts only about 2 hours, and both oils and leaves can be effective by inhalation or oral ingestion. I wouldn't use the oils on or into a cat – the carriers can cause terrible mouth ulcers in some formulations.

Catnip is a leisure drug for cats which is non-addictive and harmless.

CAT of the YEAR 2014

Rand Cat Club, sponsored by Royal Canin, presented a very efficiently run COTY – the overall show manager was Shirley Addison and the day coordinator was Jan van Rooyen . Judging started late due to international flight problems but remained on track during the day and finished in time – giving exhibitors and guests plenty of time to prepare for the Gala Dinner.

The evening started with a feeding of the fish ceremony – yes, there were live fish on each table! A person was nominated from each table to perform the task. Rita Wiseman was her usual "cotyholic" self and got the party going.

The countdown began and although some exhibitors were disappointed with their cat's placement (normal human behavioural trait) there was genuine happiness, applause and a wonderful warm, fuzzy feeling when it was announced that Anthony Dawson's neutered Lilac Burmese, MELA FORTY WINKS, was the winner of the coveted SACC COTY title!

Congratulations Anthony and Mela Forty Winks! And well done to Jane Goble of Mela Cattery who not only bred the COTY winner but also bred the Entire of the Year, Mela Hanky Panky and the runner up Kitten of the Year, Mela My Kind of Girl. Keep up the good work, Jane!

BEWARE OF COMMON CAT POISONING.

By Sr Janice Clover

Hayfields Veterinary Clinic

By far the highest numbers of poisonings seen in cats are due to well meaning owners either dosing their cats with human medications or using natural remedies. Below is some information on some of the more common or seemingly innocuous sources.

Paracetamol

Paracetamol, even in tiny doses can be lethal to cats. Cats do not have the enzymes to metabolise Paracetamol safely, so even the smallest dose will cause toxic levels. It causes the breakdown of red blood cells creating a condition called methaemaglobinaemia and liver damage. This is sadly invariably fatal. If your cat ingests any amount of Paracetamol, seek immediate veterinary attention, as there is an antidote called Acetylcysteine which can be effective if administered early enough.

Tea Tree Oil

Tea Tree Oil if taken orally is toxic to cats (as well as dogs and humans). The concentrated oils are also rapidly absorbed through the skin. Minor symptoms like drooling or vomiting may be found with mild doses of oil. Animals with moderate illness may appear weak, or partially paralyzed. Severely ill animals have life threatening symptoms like tremors, seizures, reduced level of consciousness or, coma. Symptoms follow 2 – 12 hours after exposure. Topical application of concentrated oil can result in the same toxicity as accidental oral ingestion. Given the tendency of pets to groom, especially cats, the toxicity risk of topical applications is very high.

Xylitol

Xylitol is increasingly found as a sugar substitute in many "diet" foods, and is perfectly safe for human consumption. Cats (and dogs) have a very different metabolism to humans and the ingestion of Xylitol,

even in very small amounts can be very dangerous. It induces a massive release of Insulin into the bloodstream, causing hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). This results in lethargy and even coma. In larger doses, irreversible liver failure inevitably occurs, generally resulting in death.

Onions and Garlic

Onions and garlic contain an ingredient called thiosulphate which is toxic to cats and dogs. Garlic tends to be more toxic than onions on an ounce for ounce basis, and cooking does not destroy the toxin. While it's uncommon for cats to eat enough raw onion and garlic to cause serious problems, exposure to concentrated forms of onion or garlic, such as dehydrated onions, onion soup mix or garlic powder, could put cats at risk of toxicosis. The ingestion of onions causes a condition called haemolytic anaemia, which is characterised by damage to the red blood cells. Onion toxicity can cause the red blood cells circulating through your pet's body to burst. Symptoms of this condition include breathlessness, lethargy, diarrhoea and vomiting. It may take up to 2 to 4 days after your pet eats the onion for symptoms to appear.

Please do not believe everything that is published on the internet. While there are some very useful articles, some do contain misguided and potentially harmful advice.

Unless a medication or supplement has been prescribed by your veterinarian, contact him/her first to ensure its safety in cats.

Editor's query.

Question: Would you give your human child your cat's medication?

I'm sure everyone is horrified that the question was asked and I know that no-one would ever do such a thing.

Question: Would you give your cat human medication?

I hope as responsible breeders and owners, you can all answer "NO".

NEW SHOW RULES

At the SACC Governing Council AGM, certain changes to the Show Rules were proposed and voted on by the Cat Clubs by their designated Delegates.

(The changes are in blue)

SHOW RULE 8 (p) will now read:

A judge cannot be allocated to judge the same cat more than once in the same class at the same show **with the exception of cats that are already Supreme Champions/Premiers. This is limited to twice per exhibit.**

SHOW RULE 11 (a) will now read:

Kitten classes are for registered kittens of **16 weeks** and under 9 months.

SHOW RULE 1 (c) will now read:

Every registered breed shall be provided with an Adult class for males, females, **neuter males and spayed females**, even if there is only one entry in that class.

SHOW RULE 12 (ii) will now read:

Classes are divided into male, female, **neuter male and spayed female** classes.

SHOW RULE 14(a) (ii) will now read:

Classes are divided into male, female, **neuter male and spayed female** classes.

SHOW RULE 8 will be renumbered.

SHOW RULE 8 (b) will read:

Save for the provisions made in Rule 8.1 (a) of the Show Rules, complaints against judges must be directed to and dealt with by the Panel to which the judge belongs. Should that Panel not be able to resolve the issue, then it is to be referred to the Council of Cat Judges. Only if Judges' Council fails to resolve the matter should it be referred to Governing Council for final resolution.

FRIENDLIER SHOWS

Some visitors to our Cat Shows have voiced concerns about the attitude of exhibitors towards them.

Before you all take offence, let me explain further.

Believe me, I am not talking about guarding your cat against the "chocolate coated" child who has more hands than an octopus!

Why do people visit cat shows? They come to see **your beautiful cats** or they are considering buying one of **your beautiful cats** or they are unable to have a cat, but love cats and would just like to pet **your beautiful cats** or they are lonely and would just like to have a friendly chat to you about **your beautiful cats**. They do not come to see the show team or the cat club, they come to see:

YOUR BEAUTIFUL CATS!

Not everyone has the financial resources or enough space or the grooming time required to own a pedigree cat or any cat for that matter- this does not mean that these people are not as passionate about cats as you are.

Cat show visitors should be treated with respect, kindness and above all, friendliness.

Amongst these visitors will be the future exhibitors and breeders who will keep the Cat Fancy alive when you and I are long gone.

As an exhibitor and/or breeder you should never be "too busy" or "too stressed" or "unable to talk at that time". Please do not be rude or dismissive when dealing with the public because some of them could be future clients or future breeders or future exhibitors.

Maybe you don't think you are being rude, unfriendly or behaving badly.

Remember that human perception of events is very damning.

Turning your back on a member of the public who is admiring your cat can be seen as rude or bad-mouthing people at a show can be seen as unfriendly behaviour or raising your voice for the whole world to hear could be seen as unruly behaviour or using foul language could be seen as uncouth behaviour.

We all need to think before we speak; we need to remember our reason for being at the cat show; we need to be aware of how our behaviour is going to be viewed by others- the general public don't know us but they will tell friends, family about our behaviour and conduct. Remember that bad news travels far faster than good news!

So if some of you have a "I don't care what I do" attitude or turn a blind eye to bad behaviour or ignore what is going on around you, then you are the only ones who are going to be unhappy because the survival of happy exhibitors, responsible ethical breeders, Cat Shows and the Cat Fancy is of paramount importance to the majority of wonderful people in SACC.

SO YOU WANT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT!

It is very easy to make a complaint and pay the R150 fee to the Registrar but think carefully before you do by asking yourself: (a) are there sufficient grounds for the complaint, (b) what are my motives for making the complaint and (c) where am I going to address the complaint.

- (a) **Are there witnesses** who are willing to support you in the complaint? **Have you tried to resolve** the issue yourself- either with the club or person concerned? **Does your position within**

SACC allow you control over the infringement of a rule- check the show rules.

- (b) **Do I have a "personal problem"** with a person? - One cannot like or be liked by everyone, so sit down and resolve the issue like an adult. Am I doing this **because it was done to me** first? – can you prove without doubt that you were framed and 100% innocent, otherwise you will only cause yourself more hurt.
- (c) **Addressing the complaint.**
At a Cat Show: Report the incident to the Show Manager- who should try to resolve the issue at the show, but, if you wish to make it a formal complaint, then it must be in writing with the relevant fee attached. The responsibility of addressing and resolving a complaint which arises from an incident which happened at a cat show, falls on the hosting Club's Committee and not the Governing Council of SACC.
Against a Judge: The complaint must be in writing with the relevant fee attached and addressed to the Secretary of the Panel to which the judge is a member. A Judges' Panel is responsible for investigating complaints against its members.
Other complaints: Submit your complaint in writing with the relevant fee attached to the SACC Registrar. This complaint will be submitted to Governing Council for consideration and if deemed necessary, a full investigation will be undertaken.

SACC CAT CLUBS

ALL BREEDS CAT CLUB

CAPE PROVINCE

Contact: Colin Bubb

Email: allbreedscatclub@gmail.com

RAND CAT CLUB

GAUTENG

Contact: Karen Pepler

Email: karnaki@gmail.com

CAT FANCIERS CLUB of SOUTH AFRICA

GAUTENG

Contact: Ingrid de Wet

Email: incats@global.co.za

THE BIG CAT CLUB

CAPE PROVINCE

Contact: Krystle Callaghan

Email: krystle@krisscross.co.za

EASTERN CAPE CAT CLUB

PORT ELIZABETH

Contact: Johan Groenewald

Email: taldicat@iafrica.com

TRANSVAAL CAT SOCIETY

GAUTENG

Contact: Gail Nel

Email: nelg@timesmedia.co.za

NORTHERN CAPE/FREE STATE CAT CLUB

KIMBERLEY

Contact: Wendy Welham

Email: wendywelham@gmail.com

WESTERN PROVINCE CAT CLUB

CAPE PROVINCE

Contact: Ian Moore

Email: imoore@telkomsa.net

PROVINCIAL CAT SOCIETY

DURBAN

Contact: Jane Goble

Email: provincialcatsociety@gmail.com

SACC Affiliated Breed Groups:

BREEDERS OF REX &
SPHYNX

RUSSIAN CAT INTEREST
GROUP of SA

SA ABYSSINIAN AND
SOMALI ASSOCIATION

SIAMESE BREEDERS GROUP
of SA

If you want to contact or
join one of the above
groups, please contact
SACC's Breed Council
Secretary, Ingrid de Wet,
for current contact details:

Email: incats@global.co.za