



Feline Forum

Courtesy of:

When the Bee Stings

Each year thousands of pets are bitten by bees, wasps and ants. The venom of the honeybee, harvester ant, and paper wasp contains potent chemicals that break down the red blood cells of their victims.

Stings cause local inflammation and pain which usually subside within the first hour. The discomfort can be relieved by applying cold compresses to the stung area. However, be alert to signs of shock (i.e., shallow breathing, inability to stand, decreased body temperature) that may result, especially from multiple stings. At the first sign of shock, take your cat immediately to the veterinarian. He can administer the necessary drugs, such as epinephrine, antihistamines, and corticosteroids to counteract shock.

The information for *Feline Forum* has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 1993.



Ringworm Is a Common Skin Problem of Cats

Ringworm is one of the most common skin disorders of cats. It is caused by a fungus which produces variable skin lesions. However, the most common lesion appears as a circular area of hair loss, with or without redness or itching.

Any cat suspected of ringworm infection should be evaluated by a veterinarian because ringworm infections can be spread to people and other pets

in the household. Diagnosis is made by using a Wood's lamp, direct microscopic examination of hair, or by culture. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages. Treatment includes topical or systemic antifungal medications, and separating infected animals from uninfected animals. Also environmental surfaces should be disinfected with household bleach since the ringworm fungi can persist in the environment for more than a year.

Summer Survival Checklist

As a cat owner you should be aware of how to protect your cat from the potential hazards that exist during the summer months. Following is a brief checklist to ensure your cat's health and safety during the summer months.

- ☉ Provide plenty of fresh water.
- ☉ Do not confine your cat in a car while shopping.
- ☉ Protect your cat from exposure to garden pesticides, weed killers, fertilizers and rodenticides.
- ☉ Be sure your window fans have protective shields to prevent a cat's paw or tail from getting caught in the fan blades.
- ☉ Control fleas, ticks, mites and other external parasites.
- ☉ Be sure your cat is current on all vaccinations.
- ☉ Immediately treat insect bites and stings.
- ☉ Protect your cat from running away, escape and road fatalities.

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