

Breaking Down Barriers: An Accessible, Staged Approach to Ringworm

Erin Katribe, DVM, MS

Medical Director, Best Friends Animal Society

Session Description: While ringworm doesn't affect only kittens, kittens make up the largest population of cats that we see with ringworm in shelters. In many shelters across the country, treating ringworm in-house is still a hurdle, and those shelters rely either on transfer to other organizations or cats and kittens lose their lives for a disease that should not be fatal. While shelter ringworm management is not a new topic, one shelter's staged implementation of a program is an innovative approach. The shelter knew the recommendations for treatment – but couldn't go from barely saving healthy cats to a fully implemented ringworm ward immediately. Building an entire program from scratch can be daunting, but with this approach, it's attainable for nearly any shelter.

We will also discuss how private practitioners can get involved in helping shelters save the lives of ringworm cats and kittens. Lifesaving is a community effort, and that includes veterinary partners! Private practitioners can help by providing medical support directly to the shelter and by continuing management after adoption.

Finally, we'll provide an update on evidence-based approaches to medical management of ringworm, both in the shelter and private practice setting.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Erin Katribe earned her DVM degree from Texas A&M University in 2009. Following graduation, she moved to Austin, Texas, where she practiced both emergency and critical care and shelter medicine. Dr. Katribe moved to Kanab, Utah, in 2017 and began working at Best Friends Animal Society's sanctuary. She became Best Friends' Medical Director in 2018 and completed her master's degree in Shelter Medicine through the University of Florida the same year. She serves on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians board of directors, and she currently lives in Texas where her focus is on strategic national and regional work to accomplish Best Friends' goal of getting every shelter to no-kill by 2025. She recently completed a year as interim medical director for Palm Valley Animal Society in Edinburg, Texas.