

Treatment

Unlike ringworm, mange cannot be treated with off the shelf products available in chemists. It needs Ivermectin which is normally available only from a vet.

It is possible to buy an Ivermectin preparation specifically for mites in animals and the most common are:

Pharmaq Ivermectin 0.1%
and
Beaphar Small Animal Anti Mange Spray

Rescues, hospitals and vets will often have injectable Ivermectin for treating internal parasites. This can be used as a spot-on treatment on the back of the neck instead of the sprays.

Other care, treat as ringworm hogs but these animals are likely to have infected sores from scratching and biting and will need a course of antibiotics. See your vet.

FAQ

- Ringworm and mange can transfer to you as well as other animals
- Wear disposable gloves and throw them away after handling each animal.
- Cover your clothes with a disposable or sterilisable apron
- Do not mix bedding and food bowls
- Sterilise everything in Milton fluid before a hot wash
- Use a bucket with lid or nappy bucket to soak bedding and utensils
- Keep animals in an easy clean container such as a large plastic crate. Clean daily with veterinary disinfectant and leave it on for the recommended time.
- **DO NOT USE Dettol, Flash, Bleach or other household cleaners.**
- Change bedding daily and replace substrate
- Monitor weight daily, a hog with ringworm and/or mange may also have internal parasites
- Get a faecal sample checked

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Bottom**

Ringworm & Mange

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Ringworm

Ringworm is the common name used to describe some fungal skin diseases in mammals.

The most common agent responsible for ringworm in the hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) is a dermatophyte (skin fungus) called *Trichophyton erinacei*.



Other dermatophytes known to cause ringworm in hedgehogs include:

Microsporum canis,
Microsporum gypseum,
Microsporum cookie
and *Trichophyton schoenleinii*

Signs of disease

Trichophyton erinacei is carried by 25% of hedgehogs and infection is often subclinical (i.e. there is no visible skin disease)

When affected by ringworm, hedgehogs may have spine or hair loss (spines in the diseased area may be loose or fall off), scabs or scurf in patches along the border of the skirt at the spine/hair margin, and cracked crusty skin (particularly on the head and face). In hedgehogs with long-standing (chronic) disease, the ears may be thickened, dry, and crusty, with crumbling edges. The severity of the disease varies widely from mild localised skin lesions (diseased areas) to large-scale spine/hair loss. In these severe cases, spread of the disease over the body may have taken place over a period of several weeks to months. Secondary infections (i.e. additional skin infections) with mites and bacteria are common. Hedgehogs with ringworm might show signs of skin irritation and weight loss, but other affected hedgehogs can be in normal body condition and show little sign of skin irritation, even in severe cases.

Treatment

This regimen is by no means the only way to treat a hedgehog with ringworm and/or mange. We offer the information purely because we have had considerable success with it.

Do not expect it to be a quick fix. **These conditions can persist for many weeks.**

It's unusual to get a hog that's completely bald, they tend to arrive with some spines and fur, plus scabs or crusts. Before you can start to kill off the ringworm, you need to get rid of these. WARMED almond oil can be dabbed on to soften them until they fall off.

Once the skin is accessible you can use Imaverol. Give 4 baths every 3-4 days. Dilute at the recommended rate of 1:50 in warm water and cover the hog so that it's wet all over. Try not to get it in the eyes, ears or mouth and do not rinse off, leave to air dry but keep the hog warm while this happens. A sick hog will not respond well to being cold and wet.

On days you're not bathing you can also use in daily rotation, although this is not vital: Neem Oil and Thursday Plantation Antiseptic Tea Tree Cream – NEVER use neat Tea Tree oil. Do not entirely coat the hog, small patches only, and the hog will be less feisty if you warm the creams first.

Hedgehogs can only sweat through glands on their tummy. Do not use creams or thick oils there as the hog will overheat.

If it's a tiny area you're trying to treat for scabs then apply direct to the scab with a fine brush otherwise use something that soaks straight in such as Neem oil, but use it sparingly. Keep this regime up until the fur and spines are growing back. In the case of a hog that still has some spines, keep going until spine loss is minimal at which point treat every other day, then every 3 days until clear.

Keep the hog in an environment which can be kept scrupulously clean, large plastic crate for example. Newspaper for flooring needs to be changed every day. Bedding should be changed every day, soaked in Milton fluid then very hot wash or boil wash. **Vitaly important**, keep hoggy well away from all other hogs and pets. If you have other animals in residence, sort their needs out first, never handle a mangy hog before a healthy one. Make sure you wear gloves when handling the hog or bedding, either throw gloves away or sterilise them after each use. When you've removed your gloves, rub Tea Tree into your hands or use one of the specialist hand gels similar to those in hospitals. Spines can and do poke through gloves, this simple routine should ensure you don't catch the ringworm as well.

NB. Do not be tempted to give the hog additional baths. Frequent bathing dries the skin out and will cause irritation and scratching. If the hog has cracked, bleeding or infected skin, see your vet for something like Fuciderm. Hogs with severe infections will often need a course of antibiotics.



Mange

Mange is caused by a burrowing mite. A hog infested with these will look like it is covered in a white powder and this often occurs in similar areas to ringworm. It isn't uncommon for a hog to have both.

Mange mites are highly contagious and can transfer to you. Hygiene is vitaly important.