DERMATOPHYTOSIS

FECAVA WORKING GROUP
ON ZOONOSES

1. DISEASE
Dermatophytosis

2. NAME, DEFINITION, ETIOLOGICAL SPECIES
Microsporum canis and Trichophyton mentagrophytes
• Dermatophytosis is a highly virulent zoonotic skin
disease caused by several keratinophilic fungi species
(dermatophytes).
• Dermatophytes colonize and damage keratinized skin
structures.
• Transmission takes place through direct contact
or indirectly by contaminated environment.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ANIMAL RESERVOIRS
• Especially pets like cats, dogs, and rodents like hamsters
and guinea pigs act as a reservoir for Microsporum canis
or Trichophyton mentagrophytes.

4. CLINICAL SIGNS, IF THERE ARE ANY
• Hair loss
• Papules
• Scales
• Crusts
• Erythema
• Follicular plugging
• Hyperpigmentation
• Changes in nail appearance/growth

5. WAY OF TRANSMISSION TO HUMANS
• In general, by direct contact with infested companion
animals like cats, dogs, guinea pigs and horses.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Zoe Polizopoulou

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6. CLINICAL SIGNS IN HUMANS
- Tinea capitis: fungal infection of the haired scalp
- Tinea corporis: fungal infection of the trunk
- Tinea pedis: fungal infection of the feet
- Tinea cruris: fungal infection of the groin area
- Tinea unguium: fungal infection of the nails

7. DIAGNOSIS IN HUMANS
- Direct microscopic examination can detect the presence of fungi but is not able to differentiate between the dermatophyte species due to morphological similarities between different species.
- Culture microscopy
- PCR can be used for accurate identification of dermatophytes.
- Wood’s lamp (fluorescence)

8. PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE
- Avoidance of contact with infested and stray animals.
- Environmental decontamination to prevent re-infestation.
- Vaccination for dogs, cats and horses (time-limited protection?).