

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FEBRUARY 2006**

**Jill Moss Brings Her Campaign To Crufts Again This Year.**

Last year Jill Moss came to Crufts to raise awareness of MRSA in companion animals and also of her website, [pets-mrsa.com](http://pets-mrsa.com). In the year since that visit Jill has transformed her website into a Charitable Company, The Bella Moss Foundation ([www.thebellamossfoundation.com](http://www.thebellamossfoundation.com)), and the modest aim of bringing information to pet owners has grown into projects with a leading University, participation in Government committees, and involvement in teaching veterinary students.

Foundation President Jill Moss thanked the Kennel Club for inviting her back to Crufts so that The Foundation could make new contacts and renew old ones as it continues its work. Jill also wants to express thanks to Our Dogs Newspaper for their support.

**The Bella Moss Foundation Joins With The University of Liverpool to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on MRSA in Animals**

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on MRSA in Animals will take place in Liverpool in June 2006. Presented jointly by The University of Liverpool and The Bella Moss Foundation, it will cover clinical and research issues over the two days, and will bring together some of the leading speakers in the veterinary world. This is expected to be only the first of an ongoing annual scientific and clinical event on MRSA in animals. Details on the event can be found at <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/vetvirology/mrsaconference.htm>.

**Peter Purves Agrees to Become Honorary Vice Patron of The Bella Moss Foundation.**

“MRSA is going to become a serious problem for companion animals if we don’t take action now, and we need as much information about it as we can get. The Bella Moss Foundation is taking the lead in bringing support and awareness to pet owners and vets on this emerging problem and I am pleased to be associated with their work.” Peter Purvis.

Peter is very well known for his work in animal welfare. He has been editor of the monthly magazine, Mad About Dogs, is Vice Patron of Dogs for the Disabled and President of The Canine Supporters Charity and the Rugby Animal Trust.

**The Bella Moss Foundation Supports the Standardisation of Veterinary Laboratory Processes.**

The Bella Moss Foundation is campaigning to standardise the way veterinary laboratories analyse bacteria from animal infections. “We want to remove as much of the confusion around the analysis of bacterial strains as possible,” said BMF President, Jill Moss, “and standardisation of methods is the key.” The Bella Moss Foundation has received support in its campaign from a number of veterinary institutions that have an interest in resolving this issue.

### **The Bella Moss Foundation Launches Petition on Infection Control Standards in Veterinary Practices**

As part of its ongoing campaign to improve standards of infection control The Bella Moss Foundation has launched a petition. Calling for statutory standards on infection control to which veterinary practices must comply, the Foundation hopes to present 10,000 signatures to the Government within the next twelve months. “The only way that overall standards of veterinary care can be improved in the short term,” said Jill, “is by making good clinical practice a requirement rather than an option. This kind of care would help narrow the gap between the best and worst of veterinary practices and force the veterinary profession as a whole to think more collectively about issues such as infection control. Prevention is the key to stopping the rise in levels of MRSA in animals and to reduce the risk of cross contamination between humans and animals.”

### **The Bella Moss Foundation Continues to Help People with Companion Animals**

People with companion animals continue to contact The Bella Moss Foundation for help and support.

**Cheryl Burston:** “Through an article in a newspaper I found Jill and the Bella Moss Foundation at a time when I was at my lowest after losing my Rupert to MRSA. I hope that in some way I will be able to help Jill with her campaign to ensure that measures are put in place to improve the standard of hygiene within practices, particularly when vets are undertaking surgical procedures.”

**Katrina Beckett:** “Luckily for us we came across The Bella Moss Foundation when we learnt our dog contracted MRSA following a spay surgery. Jill has been a godsend; she and Mark have spent hours on the phone advising us with all we need to know about MRSA and putting us in touch with experts in the field and other people around the country whose dogs have or had MRSA.”

**Anna Foster:** “To be able to talk to Jill and for her to put me in touch with top people in this field has given me answers, help and advice I would not normally have been able to get. I know Jill has been inspired by the death of her own beloved dog but she has made the veterinary world sit up and realize there is a problem. What a fantastic tribute to Bella’s memory.

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