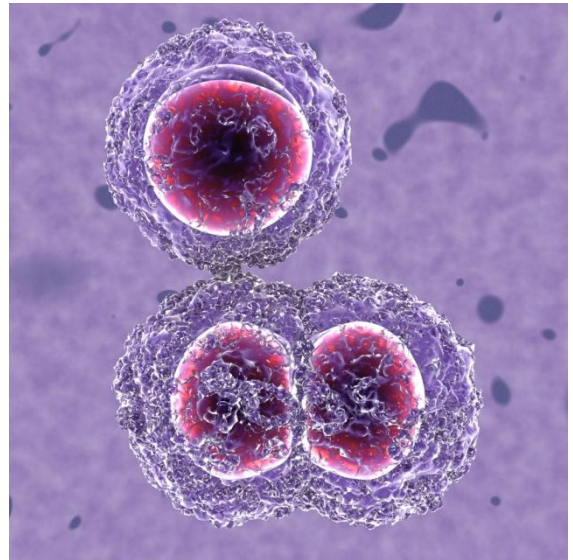




Infection Control Measures

Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria

Antimicrobial resistance has been an issue for many years, but has, for the most part, been of concern mainly in human health. Now, however, resistant bacteria are of increasing concern in veterinary care. Whereas in the past, concern has focused on Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Methicillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius* (MRSP) has now emerged as an important risk to animal health.



Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

In addition, problems with other drug-resistant bacteria including *Pseudomonas* and *Escherichia coli* are also recognised. All of these organisms can be associated with skin, ear and surgical site infections, which are often expensive and difficult to treat. There is a clear association in vulnerable animals between MRSA carriage, infection, antibiotic therapy and veterinary contact. Veterinary staff have been shown to have a higher risk of being carriers of MRSA.

MRSA, MRSP and other drug-resistant bacteria pose a clear and significant risk to the pet population and their owners. This highlights the need for careful attention to patient management, antimicrobial use, infection control and disease surveillance.



Helping people with pets suffering from MRSA

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In association with



TRUSTED INFECTION CONTROL

Measures to limit the spread of antimicrobial resistant bacteria within a practice caseload include:

Key principles for infection control

1. Establishment of guidelines for responsible antimicrobial use . in particular, ensuring that a bacterial infection has been confirmed and that appropriate antimicrobial drug treatment is correctly applied until the infection is completely cured.
2. Establishment of a comprehensive practice biosecurity policy including infectious disease control guidelines, paying particular attention to effective hand hygiene and cleaning, supported when appropriate by monitoring of pathogens in the environment.
3. Using clinical audit as a tool to check whether the infectious disease control guidelines are being followed and monitor the effectiveness of the policy.
4. Having protocols to effectively manage animals that are infected with or are carriers of MRSA, MRSP or other antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.
5. Appointment of a staff member with the authority and responsibility for ensuring that infection control protocols are available, known, understood and followed by all practice staff.

It is impossible to completely eradicate antimicrobial-resistant infections associated with healthcare settings, but a good understanding of the potential for infection and appropriate courses of action will reduce the risk.

The Bella Moss Foundation is a not for profit UK registered charity

Our Vision

"To eradicate the risk posed by antimicrobial-resistant bacteria to humans and animals"

Our mission

"To educate and support vets and animal owners on the treatment and prevention of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria"

Our Goals

Ensuring good Health by preventing infections:

- Highlighting best hygiene practice in veterinary healthcare
- Offering support and advice to people whose animals have MRSA and other serious infections
- Promoting responsible use of antibiotics
- Education on ways that bacteria are spread



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BMF will launch a new website on **1st October 2012**. www.thebellamossfoundation.com. The website has been revised and will have a separate entrance for animal owners and veterinarians. It will be a great source of up to date, evidence based-information on antimicrobial resistance. This will include podcasts of our veterinary advisors speaking about infection control and responsible use of antibiotics.



The details given in this leaflet are correct at the time of going to press.
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