

Joining forces to wage MRSA war

By Nick Griffin

A FORMER actress who set up a campaign to raise awareness of deadly superbugs affecting pets is teaming up with a charity working to stamp out MRSA in hospitals.

Jill Moss, of Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, established the Bella Moss Foundation after her beloved ten-year-old Samoyed dog, Bella became the first recorded pet to die from MRSA in 2004.

Since then, she has campaigned tirelessly to inform pet owners and vets of the risk the disease poses to animals, and has received backing from government for organising educational seminars across the country.

The charity has helped an estimated 800 animals with MRSA, ranging from horses to rabbits.

It is now due to join forces with Max4Health which is headed by MRSA survivor Ashley Brooks.

Mr Brooks, from Essex, contracted the bug after being treated for leukaemia in 2002 and will join Ms Moss for a series of conferences aimed at curbing infection rates.

The events include an international conference next year which will bring together some of the world's leading authorities on MRSA.



Clean campaign: Jill Moss with her beloved Bella

Ms Moss said: "Both Ashley and I have come through experiences of MRSA. He is campaigning against it and I'm doing the same with animals so it seemed sensible to try to get our message across to NHS and veterinary clinicians all over the country.

"Human and animal infections are very much linked. MRSA can go back and forth between us, with animals acting as reservoirs for infection. Our message is that these infections can be reduced by something as simple as washing hands properly."

Mr Brooks added: "Max4Health is about saving lives through washing hands.

"We already help humans and I'm now looking forward to bringing our message to pet owners too."