



## MRSP vs MRSA

MRSP stands for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Pseudintermedius. *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* is the type of bacteria found on cat and dog skin. MRSA is Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. *Staphylococcus aureus* is the most common bacteria found on humans.

MRSP and MRSA are called “superbugs”. They are resistant to many of the common antibiotics so are more difficult to treat.

We often see MRSP in pets that have had a history of multiple infections treated with antibiotics. In order to prevent recurring infections, the underlying cause needs to be identified and controlled.



We perform a culture and sensitivity to identify the bacteria and to determine which antibiotics will kill them. Often your pet needs topical (on the skin) medicine as well as oral antibiotics. We treat for at least 5-6 weeks and sometimes longer.

Recurring infections can happen if you stop giving the medicine when it looks better and your pet is feeling good. Even if the infection appears gone, some bacteria may still be present waiting to take over again. Treatment needs to continue for 3 weeks after everything looks normal. Another culture before stopping medicine will show if the bacteria are completely gone and it's safe to stop.

It is rare for humans to get MRSP from their pets, although any person that is immune-compromised (cancer treatment, immune disease, etc.) is more at risk. Other pets in the household can get MRSP. However, if your other pets are healthy, it is unlikely to cause an active infection.

Humans can give MRSA to pets, though it is not common, and vice versa. Pets exposed to MRSA can have the bacteria without becoming sick themselves. They can serve as a source of infection for people. If someone in your home has MRSA, you may want to talk to your doctor about having your pet tested. Swabs from your pet's nose can be cultured.

To help prevent spreading disease, wash your hands after touching your pet. Avoid contact with any lesions or known areas of infection. If treating the infected areas, wear gloves and wash your hands afterwards. Wash your pet's bedding weekly. Don't let your pet sleep with you or family members until the infection has been officially cleared.

