



# The Bella Moss Foundation



Helping people with pets suffering from MRSA

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**Veterinary Nurse Training Online** ([www.veterinarynursetrainingonline.org](http://www.veterinarynursetrainingonline.org)) offers information for veterinary nurses and other practice staff on veterinary issues. There you will find information on MRSA, information on preventing hospital-acquired infection and a photographic tour of a veterinary practice showing situations that commonly occur. You will also have an opportunity to obtain a Certificate of Achievement by taking a multiple-choice questionnaire on the knowledge you have gained.

The **Webinar Vet** is proud to support the work of The Bella Moss Foundation and held a webinar on MRSA last year with all profits going to the Foundation. This is still available to view in our Free Webinar Section. **Further webinars are planned in conjunction with The Bella Moss Foundation; our joint aim is to promote continuing education within the Veterinary Profession.** For more information, sign up to receive our newsletters via our homepage at [www.thewebinarvet.com](http://www.thewebinarvet.com).



**Veterinary Nurse Training Online**  
A Division of the Bella Moss Foundation  
Registered charity in the United Kingdom - Charity No 1122246



## Multiresistant staphylococci

MRSP has now emerged as an important animal health risk. This multidrug resistant bacterium has increased dramatically as a cause of skin, ear and surgical site infections. Often much more resistant than MRSA, some MRSP infections (especially orthopaedic surgery-associated infections) can lead to long-term, expensive, often frustrating and sometimes futile treatment courses. MRSP poses a clear and significant risk to the pet population and highlights the need for careful attention to patient management, antimicrobial use, infection control and disease surveillance, to limit its impact.

**Has your practice encountered MRSP and is it prevalent in the areas from which your patients are drawn?**

MRSP and MRSA, like all staphylococci, have the ability to persist for many months in the environment. They are also able to transfer to both vets and owners handling infected animals, who may then pass these organisms on to animals which they encounter. MRSP is a particular hazard because it is adapted to animals. Both MRSA and MRSP can transfer to infected animals being treated with systemic antimicrobials.

**Do you keep records of nosocomial infections occurring within your practice? Have you reviewed your practice hygiene protocols and their ability to deal with this threat?**

Broad-spectrum systemic antimicrobials have been incriminated as factors promoting multiresistant bacteria. Prudent antimicrobial use recommends the use of narrow spectrum agents when possible.

**Have you developed guidelines for antimicrobial use in your practice which will promote responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial drugs?**

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