

What Is MRSA?

- ✎ MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. That's a very long name! So it's called MRSA for short.
- ✎ *Staphylococcus aureus* is a type of bacteria that lives in some people's noses. MRSA is a special kind of *Staphylococcus aureus* that can't be killed by certain antibiotics. Bacteria that can't be killed by antibiotics are sometimes called "super bugs."
- ✎ Super bugs like MRSA used to only be found in places like hospitals, but now you can find MRSA in lots of other places too.
- ✎ MRSA's favorite place to live (other than a person's nose) is in cuts, scrapes and sores on a person's skin, or on your pet's skin. MRSA can make a cut infected, so it is harder for the skin to heal.
- ✎ People who are already sick or in the hospital can get even sicker if they catch MRSA. MRSA may spread to many parts of their body.
- ✎ Sometimes a person or an animal may have MRSA without knowing it, or getting sick at all.



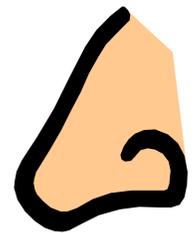
Where Does MRSA Come From?

- ✎ MRSA comes from the nose of some people or pets who may not know they have it. It can also come from people who are sick or have an infection with MRSA.
- ✎ MRSA can live on things like a person's clothes, or your pet's toys, but usually not for very long. Washing things with soap and water can usually get rid of MRSA.



How Do People & Pets Get MRSA?

- ✎ People usually get MRSA from touching someone who has MRSA, or someone who got MRSA on their hands, and then touching their own nose or a cut on their skin.
- ✎ Pets can get MRSA from licking or kissing someone who has MRSA, or even just sitting on their lap or in bed with them.



How Do I Know If My Pet Has MRSA?

- ✎ Pets may not get sick at all from MRSA. If they do get sick, they can get the same kinds of infections as people. Most often they get skin infections.
- ✎ If your pet is sick or has a skin infection, your pet might need to go to the vet.
- ✎ Your vet can do a test to see if MRSA is growing in or on your pet's body. If your vet finds MRSA, your pet might need some special medicine (antibiotics)

Can I Get MRSA From My Pet?

Maybe. MRSA can sometimes be in the nose or on the bum of pets, even if they don't look sick. If you get MRSA in your nose or on a cut, it may live there for a while, and could cause infection. To make sure you don't get MRSA, this is what you should do:

- ✎ Always wash your hands well after you play with your pet.
- ✘ Don't touch your face until you've washed your hands.
- ✘ Don't touch your pet's bum, even if it looks clean.
- ✘ Don't let your pet lick your face, and don't kiss your pet on the nose.

