



# Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Information for Dog and Cat Owners



## What is carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)?

- Carbapenems are antibiotics that are reserved for resistant infections.
- CRPA is a type of bacteria that can cause severe infections in pets and people and is resistant to carbapenems and other antibiotics, making them challenging to treat.

## Where did my pet get this bacteria?

- Pets can acquire *Pseudomonas* and CRPA from the environment, or from an infected or colonized person or animal.
- *Pseudomonas* grows well in moist environments.
- *Pseudomonas* and CRPA can colonize people and pets without causing illness.
- Some pets develop infections from CRPA, most commonly ear infections, skin/wound infections, and urinary tract infections.

## Can CRPA spread to my family and other pets?

- It is possible to spread CRPA between pets and people, but the risk is believed to be low.
- Immunosuppressed family members should avoid contact with CRPA-infected pets during treatment.
- Everyone can reduce spread by washing hands.
- Anyone concerned about CRE exposure or illness should consult their healthcare provider.

## How can we treat my pet?

- There is **NO** benefit to screening healthy pets or treating pets who are colonized with CRPA but not showing clinical signs.
- If your pet is infected with CRPA, your veterinarian will determine the best antibiotic treatment.
- Follow your veterinarian's guidance exactly for antibiotic treatment and follow-up care.

## General precautions

- While your pet is being treated, minimize their contact with other pets and people.
- Keep infected wounds covered and wear gloves to change bandages.
- Clean up urine accidents immediately, while wearing gloves.
- Wash your hands after handling your pet and their bodily fluids, and do not let them lick your face.
- Food bowls, ear cleaners, and shampoos can become reservoirs and sources of reinfection. Clean thoroughly or discard such items.
- Choose a cleaning product effective for *Pseudomonas*, and follow the manufacturer guidelines (e.g., dilution, storage, contact time).

## Where can I find more information?

- Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
(785) 532-5650 <http://www.ksvdl.org/>
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory  
(573) 882-8367 <https://vmdl.missouri.edu/>
- CDC: Patient Information about *Pseudomonas*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/pseudomonas.html>