



# Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* Information for Dog and Cat Owners



## What is carbapenem-resistant

### *Enterobacterales* (CRE)?

- Carbapenems are antibiotics that are reserved for resistant infections.
- CRE is a group of bacteria (e.g., *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*) that can cause severe infections in pets and people and is resistant to these antibiotics, making them challenging to treat.

## Where did my pet get these bacteria?

- *Enterobacterales* can live in the gastrointestinal and urogenital tracts of healthy people and pets. These bacteria can have antibiotic resistance without causing illness. Pets that carry these bacteria but are not sick are called colonized individuals.
- When CRE spreads to other body sites (such as the lungs, urinary tract or wounds), pets can develop infections and become sick.
- CRE can be spread by an infected (sick) or colonized (not sick) individual, through direct contact (petting), bodily fluids (wounds, urine, saliva), stool, or by contact with a contaminated surface.

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

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

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## How can we treat my pet?

- There is **NO** benefit to screening healthy pets or treating pets who are colonized with CRE but not showing clinical signs.
- If your pet is infected with CRE, 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 stool and urine accidents immediately, while wearing gloves.
- Follow the manufacturer guidelines when using cleaning products in your home.
- Wash your hands after handling your pet and their bodily fluids, and do not let them lick your face.

## 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 FAQs about CRE for Pet Owners  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/FAQ-Owners.html>

**M** College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
University of Missouri