

QUICK FACTS ON MRSA

1. MRSA – Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* – is a major health concern in humans
2. Approximately 30% of healthy people carry methicillin sensitive *S. aureus*, with a minority of approximately 1% carrying MRSA
3. Sick, debilitated or immunocompromised individuals are most at risk of contracting MRSA
4. Dogs and cats **can** carry MRSA
5. MRSA is of little risk to healthy animals but vulnerable pets would include immunocompromised animals, those receiving chemotherapy, long term inpatients and animals with open wounds or implants, as well as those undergoing major, particularly orthopaedic, surgery
6. Infections can be acquired in a hospital or community environment
7. It is usually impossible to identify the source of infection
8. The risk to healthy people from animals is low
9. MRSA is resistant to many antibiotics, but isolates are frequently sensitive to other antibiotics that are routinely used in veterinary practice

At St Vincents Veterinary Surgery we take the health of our patients, their owners and our staff very seriously, and we are committed to laboratory testing on a regular basis to ensure that our practice remains free of not only MRSA, but other significant pathogens as well. Please ask for details.