



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>