



# DOGS & CATS

One of the risk factors leading to the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria is prior exposure to antimicrobial therapy. Therefore, any measures that reduce overall antimicrobial drug use in dogs and cats may help reduce antimicrobial resistance. This could include establishing infection prevention programs and developing antimicrobial stewardship plans in veterinary settings.

## **PATHOGEN OF CONCERN:**

- *Staphylococcus* spp.
  - *S. aureus*
  - *S. pseudintermedius*
  - *S. schleiferi*
- *Enterobacteriaceae*
  - *Escherichia coli*
  - *Proteus* spp.
  - *Klebsiella* spp.
- *Acinetobacter* spp.
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- *Enterococcus* spp.
  - *Enterococcus faecalis*
  - *Enterococcus faecium*
- *Campylobacter jejuni*

**Antimicrobial-resistant infections affect dogs and cats. Preventing infections is crucial to preventing resistant infections.**

## **What you need to know**

- Prevalence of resistant pathogens in dogs and cats is largely unknown. Additional information is needed to learn more about how often resistant infections occur.
- Resistant infections can be difficult to treat.
- Antimicrobial stewardship helps to prevent development of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.
- The International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID) has developed clinical guidelines to highlight diagnostic and treatment choices for bacterial infections of the skin, respiratory tract and urinary tract.
- The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) have developed guidelines to control the spread of disease within hospital environments.

## **WHAT VETERINARIANS CAN DO:**

- Use antimicrobials only when indicated.
- Use diagnostic testing to inform treatment decisions.
- Implement infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship programs in veterinary settings (AAHA, ISCAID, and OAHN referenced above).