



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 tract of healthy people and pets without causing any signs of illness; this is called colonization.
- Antibiotic resistance is shared among bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract.
- When CRE spreads to other body sites (such as the lungs, urinary tract or wounds), pets can develop infections and become sick.
- CRE can spread through feces, fluids, hands, and contaminated surfaces.

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?

- 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.
- Pets colonized with CRE without showing signs of illness do not need to be treated.

General precautions

- Your pet might shed CRE for 4 months or longer, so minimize their contact with other pets and people.
- Wash hands after petting and feeding. Do not let infected pets lick your face.
- Keep infected wounds covered and wear gloves to change bandages.
- Wear gloves to pick up feces.
- Wash hands prior to human food preparation and eating.
- Follow the manufacturer guidelines when using cleaning products in your home (contact time).

Where can I find more information?

- Kansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
(785) 532-5650 <http://www.ksvdl.org/>
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
(573) 882-8367 <https://vmdl.missouri.edu/>
- [CDC CRE and Animal Basics](#)

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Veterinary Medicine
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