

MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT BACTERIA IN COMPANION ANIMALS– IMPACT ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ZOOLOGICAL ASPECTS

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The role of companion animals as a source of antibiotic resistant bacteria has historically been given little emphasis when compared with that of food animals. However, various resistant bacteria may cause serious treatment problems in companion animal medicine. Some of the most important multidrug-resistant bacteria include methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (MRSP), methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL)-producing Enterobacteriaceae. These bacteria will be described with focus on their prevalence across Europe, their impact on animal health, treatment options and potential zoonotic impact.