



MRStaph Update 2014

1. MRStaph has **increased** to crisis levels at 30% of skin/ear cultures submitted by veterinary clinics.
2. Human infection/colonization rate has **increased from 5% to 8%** with all 3 MRStaph species causing infections in dogs and people.
3. **Steroids, Fluoroquinolones and the number of bacterial infections** that a patient cycles through **ARE** linked to these increases based on textbooks, studies, and mainstream media reports.

What to do?

1. **PROTECTING THE FAMILY MEMBERS. Culture the patient if MRStaph is suspected or if a family member is in a risk category.** Discuss human exposure risk (chemotherapy, immunosuppression treatment, HIV, infants and elderly) and educate all MRStaph patient owners and families about CDC infection prevention protocols.
2. **YOU MUST STOP ALL STEROIDS IN MRSTAPH INFECTED PATIENTS.**
3. **YOU MUST NOT USE FQ ANTIBIOTICS.**
4. **THE INFECTED DOG MUST NOT SLEEP IN THE FAMILY'S BED.**
4. Treat the primary disease for long-term control of the disease and prevention of secondary MRStaph (hypothyroidism, Atopy, flea allergy, Cushing's, diabetes, food allergy, scabies).
5. Implement aggressive hygiene and infection prevention/control measures based on CDC MRSA guidelines.