



SEASIDE PET CLINIC

Quality Medicine with a Personal Touch

900 24th Ave
Seaside, OR 97138
(503) 738-8846

www.SeasidePetClinic.com

MRSA virus

MRSA or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* has been a concern in human hospitals for decades. Recently, however, it has been found that pets can pick MRSA up from humans and then shed it back into the environment, causing it to be more difficult to eliminate it in the human who keeps getting reexposed.

One study by J. Scott Weese, a veterinary internist and microbiologist at the University of Guelph in Ontario involved randomly selected dogs and showed that at any given time only 2-3 percent carried MRSA on their fur, skin, or saliva. For protection, however, pet owners should wash their hands before and after playing with their pets, not let their pets lick them in the face, and not wash food and water bowls in the same area where human food is prepared. Additionally, open wounds on pets should be handled with gloves and humans should keep their own open skin bandaged while handling pets.

Even though few pets are infected, Dr. Weese did feel that attentiveness to any wound on a pet was in order. "In the grand scheme of things with MRSA, pets are a pretty minor thing," he said. "But when you consider how many MRSA infections are occurring in North America at the moment, if they're a minor component of a major disease, that's still something we need to be aware of."