

The decreased usage of antibiotics has helped: antimicrobials are more effective against canine bacteria in Finland

Antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from dogs is decreasing, summarises the latest [FINRES-Vet report](#). One likely reason is the diminished use of antimicrobials for treating canine infections, which prevents bacteria from developing resistance. Bacteria from cats are still more susceptible to antibiotics compared to those from dogs. This summary lists the main findings of the resistance situation in companion animal pathogens

FINRES-Vet report is a joint action by the University of Helsinki Faculty of Veterinary medicine, the Finnish Food Authority and the Finnish Medicines Agency Fimea. [Summary of the report, 2018](#) (see companion animal statistics on Page 7)

- An improved resistance situation is partially due to the decreasing use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine in general. Moreover, the sales of oral antibiotic preparations for companion animals has halved since 2011, according to statistics provided by Fimea
- Another reason for the improved situation is that more and more specimens are nowadays taken from acute infections, so the resistance statistics better reflect average infections instead of chronic ones.
- Among *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, the proportion of methicillin resistant isolates (i.e. MRSP) was cut in half compared to 2016 being only six percent in 2018.
- Among canine *Escherichia coli* resistance to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid decreased from 21% (2016) to 12% (2018) while resistance to fluoroquinolones dropped eight percentage units during 2015-2018 being less than 7% in 2018.
- Slightly over 1% of canine and feline *Escherichia coli* bacteria produced ESBL (extended spectrum beta-lactamase) enzymes in 2018. This is a near two-percentage unit decrease from 2015.

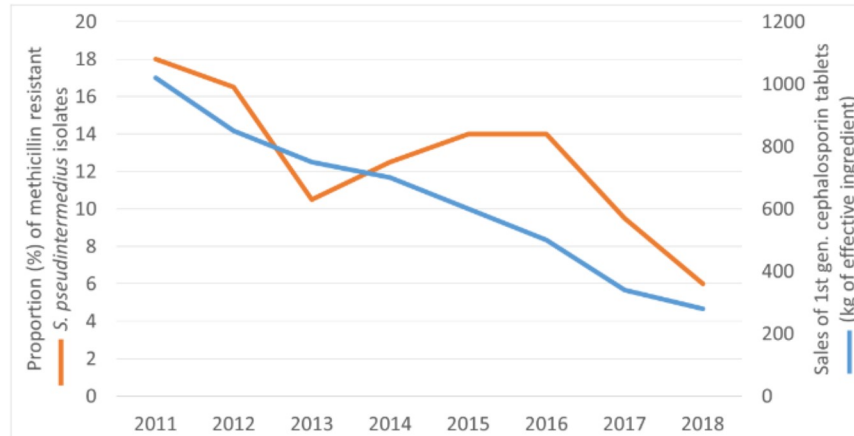


Figure: The proportion of methicillin resistance (MRSP) among canine clinical *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* isolates and veterinary sales of oral 1st generation cephalosporins during 2011-2018 in Finland. Numbers for sales are from the Finnish Medicines Agency Fimea (published on page 9, Figure 5 in the [Finres-Vet 2018 report](#)) and resistance percentages from the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki

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