

# Nosocomial infections (NI) in veterinary medicine

A nosocomial infection, also known as a hospital-associated infection, is an infection that patients acquire in connection with medical care in veterinary clinics or hospitals.

## Rates



- Approximately 19% of dogs and horses, 16% of cats (1, 2) develop at least one NI during inpatient stay
- 85% NI outbreaks in veterinary hospitals, some with zoonotic potential (3)

## Consequences and costs



- Prolonged patient stays (2)
- Higher costs for owners and veterinary hospitals (1, 4, 5)
- Morbidity and mortality
- Can range from restrictions on patient admissions (3) to closure of the veterinary hospital (or certain departments) (3)
- MRPs and zoonosis endanger personnel and animal owners (3)

## Factors



- MRPs (multi-resistant pathogens) often involved in NI (1)
- Lack of understanding
- Lack of standards
- Lack of preventive measures

## Approaches & Solutions



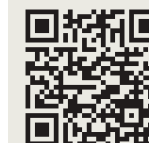
- 20% - 70% of NI are preventable (6)
- Improving hand hygiene reduces NI rate by 41% (7)
- 48% reduction in NI through better process optimization and surveillance (8)

## It's in Your Hands



Our many years of process consulting and product development experience help us offer solutions and support tailored specifically to veterinary medical needs. Extensive information on infection prevention in veterinary medicine is available at:

[www.bbraun-vetcare.com/inyourhands](http://www.bbraun-vetcare.com/inyourhands)



### Sources

- (1) Ruple-Czerniak A, Aceto HW, Bender JB, Paradis MR, Shaw SP, van Metre DC et al. Using syndromic surveillance to estimate baseline rates for healthcare-associated infections in critical care units of small animal referral hospitals. *J Vet Intern Med* 2013; 27(6):1392-9.
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- (3) Benedict KM, Morley PS, van Metre DC. Characteristics of biosecurity and infection control programs at veterinary teaching hospitals. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2008; 233(5):767-73.
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- (6) Harbarth S, Sax H, Gastmeier P. The preventable proportion of nosocomial infections: an overview of published reports. *J Hosp Infect* 2003; 54(4):258-66; quiz 321.
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