

Phage therapy in companion animals: which way for an efficient treatment ?

Avoiding Antimicrobial Resistance: Veterinary use of Phages for
Prevention, Therapy and Control of Bacterial Infections

November 19-20, 2024

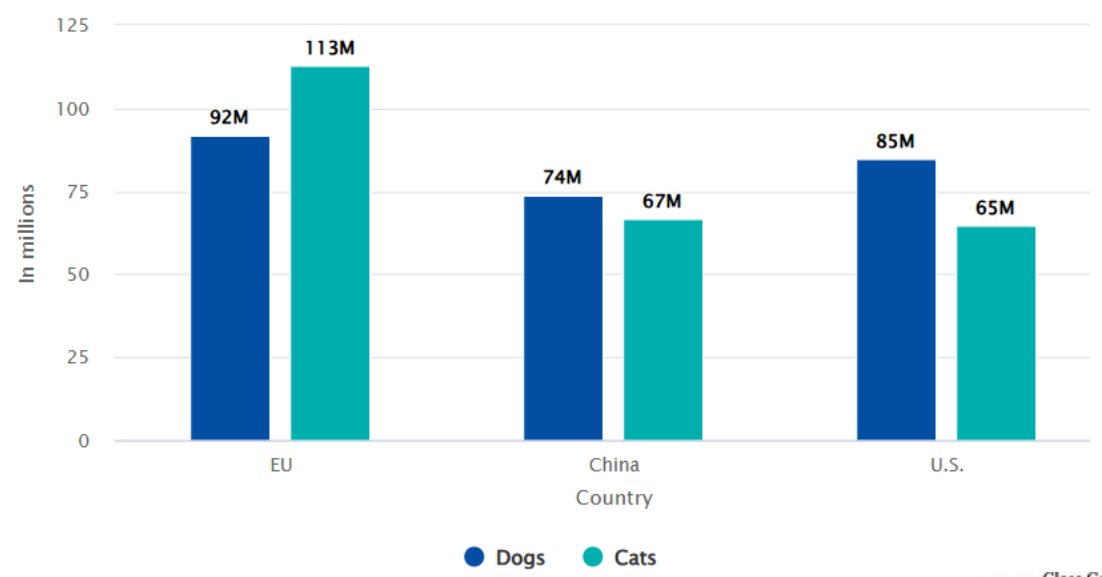
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Population of pets in major markets



How many people own a pet?

Billions of households around the world are unified by a common theme – pet ownership. Sharing your home with a pet is a common language that cuts across country and culture.

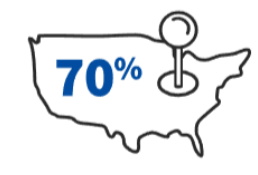


More than half of the global population is estimated to have a pet at home.²²

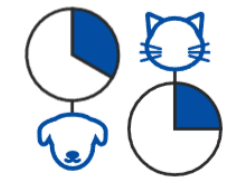


500 Million+

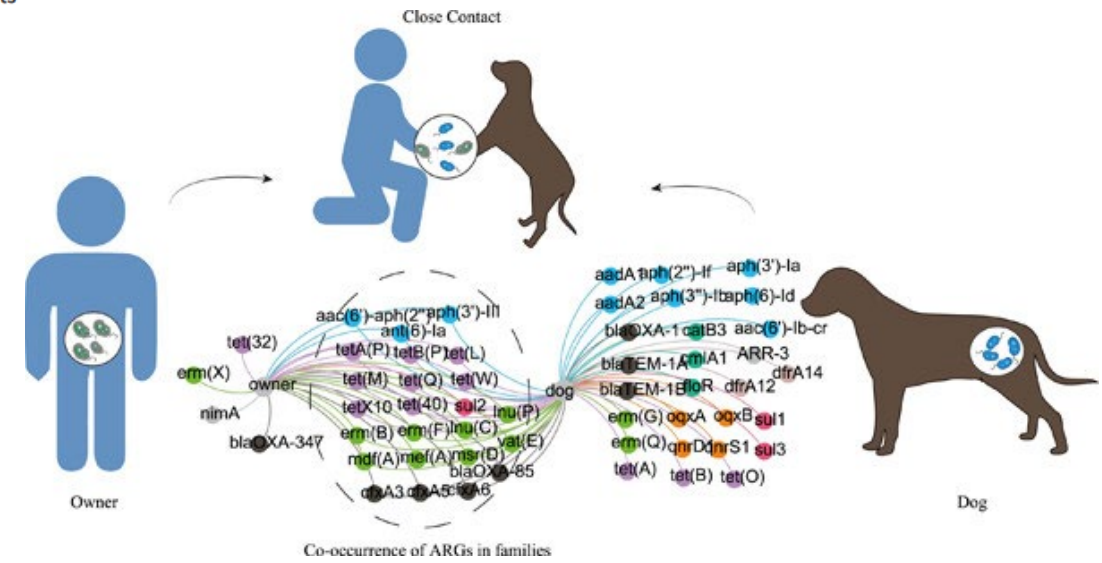
Families in the U.S., EU and China alone have over half a billion dogs and cats.



In the U.S., 70 percent of households owned a pet as of 2021 compared to 68 percent in 2016.²³



Globally, dogs are the most popular pet, present in around one in three homes. Almost a quarter of pet owners have a cat.²⁴



(Zhao et al, 2022)

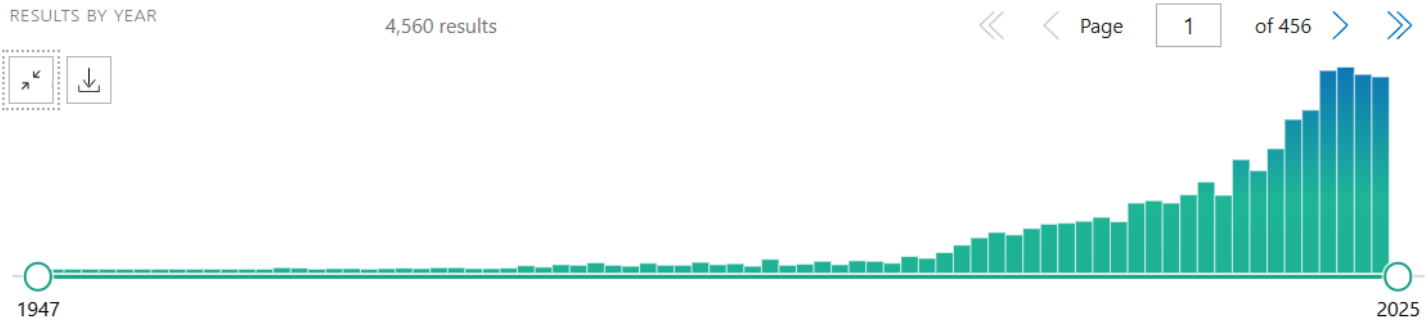
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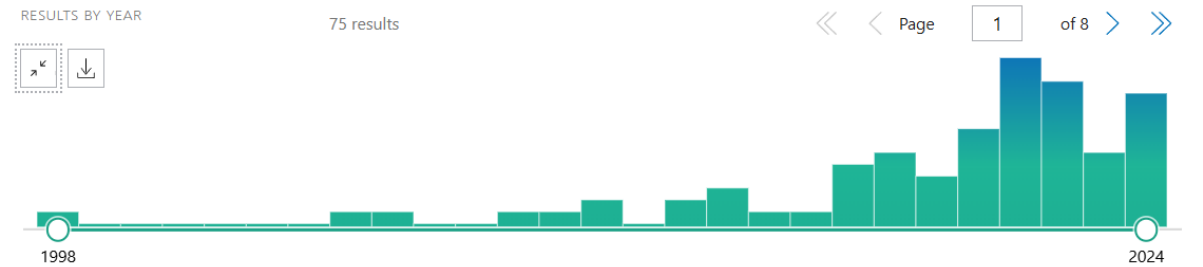
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Scarce literature compared to human and farm animals

World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects

" 37. In the treatment of an individual patient, where previous interventions do not exist or other known interventions have been ineffective, the physician, after seeking expert advice, with informed consent from the patient or a legally authorized representative, may use an unproven intervention if in the physician's judgement it offers hope of saving life, re-establishing health, or alleviating suffering. This intervention should subsequently be made the subject of research, designed to evaluate its safety and efficacy. In all cases, new information must be recorded and where appropriate, made publicly available."

Few research programs funded for companion animals



Scarce literature compared to human and farm animals

but



and
encouraging literature

Companion animals as *in vivo* models for human or farm animals

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Topically applied bacteriophage to control multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*-infected wounds in a New Zealand rabbit model

Jinyu Wang, Wenxin Meng, Kaichuan Zhang, Jingyu Wang, Baochun Lu, Ruijie Wang and Kun Jia*



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jgar



In vitro and in vivo assessment of phage therapy against *Staphylococcus aureus* causing bovine mastitis



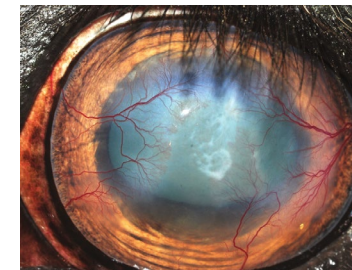
C. Ngassam-Tchamba^a, J.N. Duprez^a, M. Fergestad^b, A. De Visscher^{c,1}, T. L'Abée-Lund^b, S. De Vlieghe^c, Y. Wasteson^b, F. Touzain^d, Y. Blanchard^d, R. Lavigne^e, N. Chanishvili^f, D. Cassart^g, J. Mainil^a, D. Thiry^a

Groups	OS001_ISP				OS001_marbo				OS001_PBS				ISP_PBS				PBS_PBS			
	HPI24		HPI48		HPI24		HPI48		HPI24		HPI48		HPI24		HPI48		HPI24		HPI48	
Hour post inoculation	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20
Bacterial titers (CFU/mg)	-				-				-				-				-			
L4	2.1.10 ³	1.4.10 ³	-	-	-	2.6.10 ³	-	-	4.3.10 ⁶	6.2.10 ⁶	69.10 ⁸	3.7.10 ⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R4	5.6.10 ⁵	3.3.10 ⁵	-	2.10 ⁴	-	-	-	-	2.4.10 ⁷	8.3.10 ⁷	3.2.10 ⁸	7.10 ⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phage titers (PFU/mg)	-				-				-				-				-			
L4	3.4.10 ²	1.2.10 ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.8.10 ⁵	1.3.10 ²	1.4.10 ²	-	-	-	-
R4	-	2.3.10 ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4.10 ³	1.9.10 ²	-	-	-	-



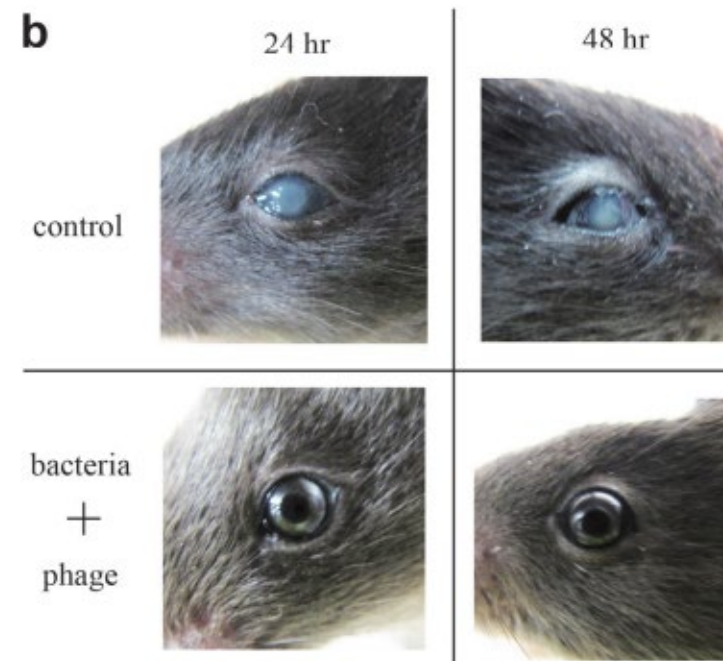
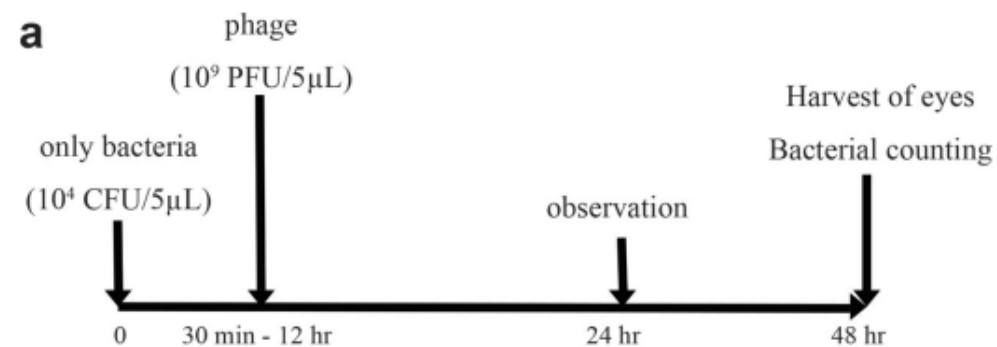


Applied and Environmental
Microbiology



Phage Therapy Is Effective in a Mouse Model of Bacterial Equine Keratitis

Takaaki Furusawa,^a Hidetomo Iwano,^a Yutaro Hiyashimizu,^a Kazuki Matsubara,^a Hidetoshi Higuchi,^b Hajime Nagahata,^b Hidekazu Niwa,^c Yoshinari Katayama,^c Yuta Kinoshita,^c Katsuro Hagiwara,^d Tomohito Iwasaki,^e Yasunori Tanji,^f Hiroshi Yokota,^a Yutaka Tamura^g

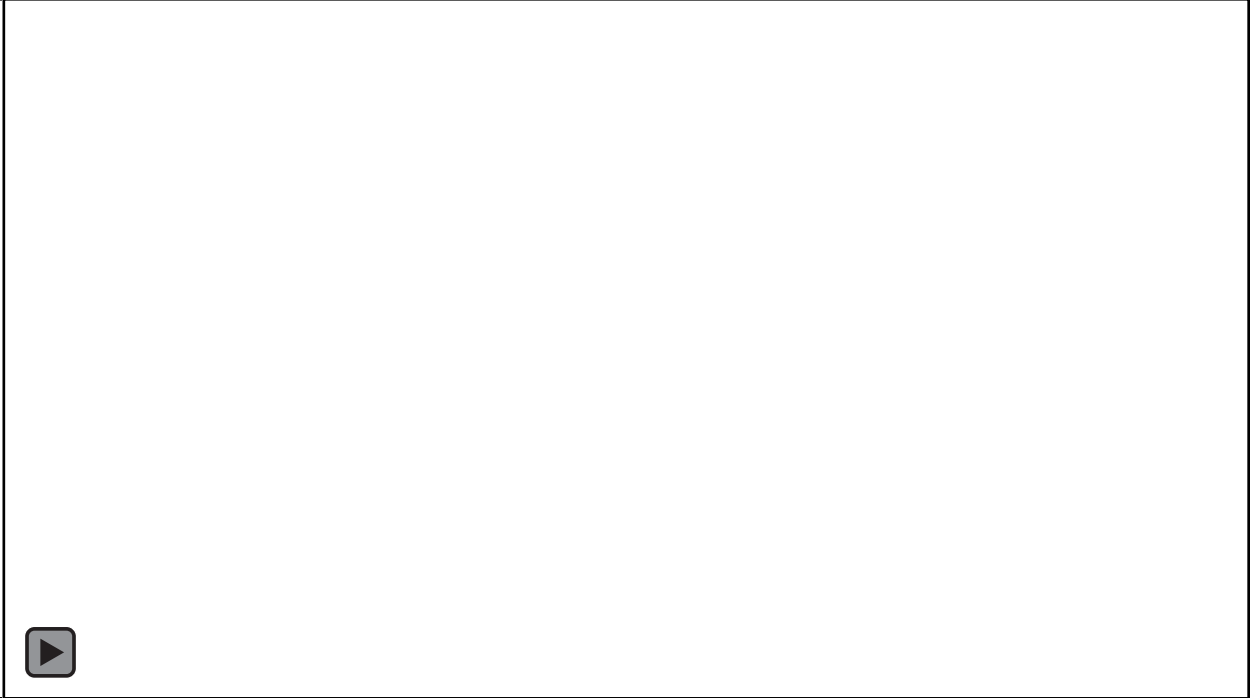
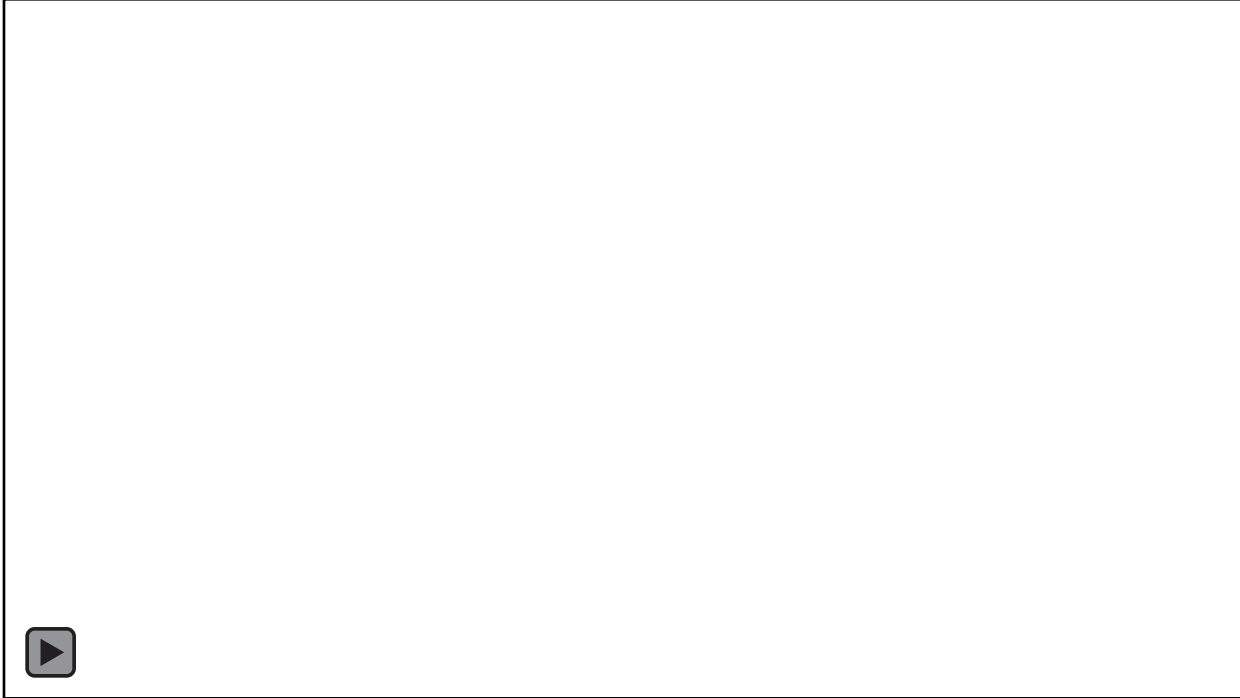




Dog otitis



Otitis in dog caused by *P. aeruginosa*



(Source: monvt.eu)



ELSEVIER



Burns

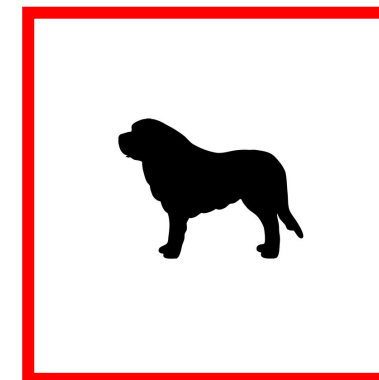
Volume 32, Issue 5, August 2006, Pages 644-646



Case report

Multiplication of therapeutically administered bacteriophages in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infected patients

J.A. Sivera Marza^a, J.S. Soothill^b  , P. Boydell^c, T.A. Collyns^d





Case:

- 5 years old atopic St Bernard dog
- Chronic bilateral otitis externa caused by *P. aeruginosa*
- Failure of repeated topical and systemic treatment

Phage treatment:

- One phage
- Single application of 0,2mL of phage suspension at 400PFU/mL into external auditory canal

Observations:

- 27h post treatment: right ear was dry and no longer inflamed (left ear as control)
- Phage count: $1,6 \times 10^8$ pfu / 0,032g of ear detritus → phage replication
- Long term follow up: recurrent cycles of improvement-deterioration until a total recovery 9 months later (no *P. aeruginosa* isolated) without Ab



Dog's ear before the phage treatment



Dog's ear 27h post phage treatment

(Marza *et al*, 2006)

Veterinary Microbiology 146 (2010) 309–313



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Veterinary Microbiology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/vetmic



Topical treatment of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* otitis of dogs with a bacteriophage mixture: A before/after clinical trial

Catherine Hawkins^a, David Harper^a, David Burch^b, Erik Änggård^a, James Soothill^{c,*}

^aBiocontrol Ltd., Suites 217-218, BioCity Nottingham, Pennyfoot Street, Nottingham, NG1 1GF, UK

^bOctagon Services Ltd., The Round House, The Friary, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2NR, UK

^cLevel 4 CB Laboratories, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, WC1N 3JH, UK



Cases:

- Clinical trial
- 10 dogs with chronic otitis since > 3 months
- Failure of repeated Ab treatments (>3) and flushing
- *P. aeruginosa* sensitive to the used phages



Phage treatment:

- Cocktail of 6 phages against *P. aeruginosa*
- Single application of 0,2mL of phage suspension at 10^5 PFU of each of the 6 phages into external auditory canal

Observations:

- Scoring (occlusion, erythema, discharge, ...) → before phage treatment and 48h post treatment
- Phage count 1 day post treatment
- Long term follow up: 18 months, incomplete but generally positive

Change in indicators from before to 48 h after bacteriophage treatment.

	Clinical condition		<i>P. aeruginosa</i> Reduction in <i>P. aeruginosa</i> count (%) (count on day 1 considered as 100%)	Bacteriophage pfu/swab (6×10^5 pfu administered on day 1)
	^a Reduction in clinical score	Reduction in clinical score (%) (score on day 1 considered as 100%)		
Dog 1	4	30.8	74	8×10^7
Dog 2	5	50	58.6	4.7×10^6
Dog 3	6	54.5	75.8	1.4×10^8
Dog 4	4.5	56.3	46	1.7×10^6
Dog 5	3	21.4	54	5.5×10^6
Dog 6	1.5	12.5	63.6	2.6×10^8
Dog 7	3	24	89	1×10^7
Dog 8	1	7.7	29.4	4.5×10^6
Dog 9 (L ear)	2	28.6	82.5	7.9×10^7
Dog 10 (R ear)	2.5	17.9	96.8	9.4×10^6
Mean (all dogs)	3.3	30.1	67	5.9×10^7

^a Out of a total of 18, based on 5 clinical indicators where higher scores indicate worse condition.



► J Vet Med Sci. 2016 Feb 14;78(6):1035–1038. doi: [10.1292/jvms.15-0310](https://doi.org/10.1292/jvms.15-0310)

Bacteriophage can lyse antibiotic-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolated from canine diseases

[Takaaki FURUSAWA](#)¹, [Hidetomo IWANO](#)^{1,*}, [Hidetoshi HIGUCHI](#)², [Hiroshi YOKOTA](#)¹, [Masaru USUI](#)³, [Tomohito IWASAKI](#)⁴, [Yutaka TAMURA](#)³

Research in Veterinary Science 136 (2021) 598–601



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Research in Veterinary Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rvsc






Efficacy assessment of PEV2 phage on *Galleria mellonella* larvae infected with a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* dog otitis isolate

C. Antoine^{a,b,1}, F. Laforêt^{a,b,1}, B. Blasdel^c, T. Glonti^d, E. Kutter^e, J.P. Pirnay^d, J. Mainil^a, V. Delcenserie^{b,2}, D. Thiry^{a,*,2}

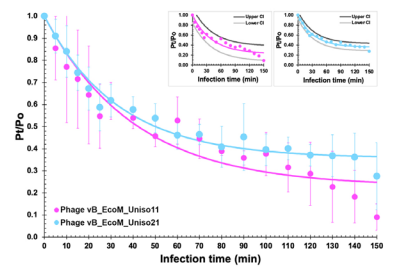


Article

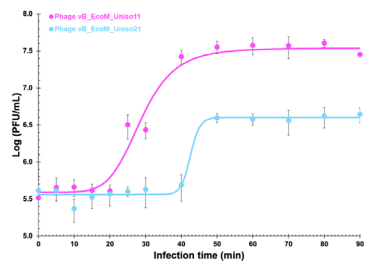
Isolation and Molecular Characterization of Two Novel Lytic Bacteriophages for the Biocontrol of *Escherichia coli* in Uterine Infections: In Vitro and Ex Vivo Preliminary Studies in Veterinary Medicine

Victor M. Balcão ^{1,2,*} , Bianca G. Belline ¹ , Erica C. Silva ¹, Pablo F. F. B. Almeida ¹, Denicezar Â. Baldo ¹, Lara R. P. Amorim ³, José M. Oliveira Júnior ¹ , Marta M. D. C. Vila ¹ and Fernando S. Del Fiol ¹

Uterine infection



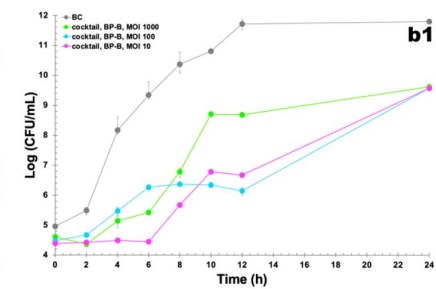
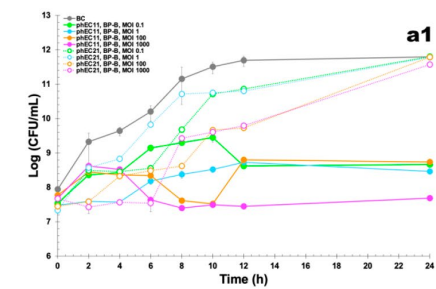
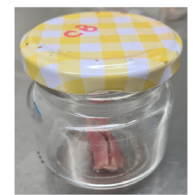
Phage adsorption onto host cells



Phage growth parameters

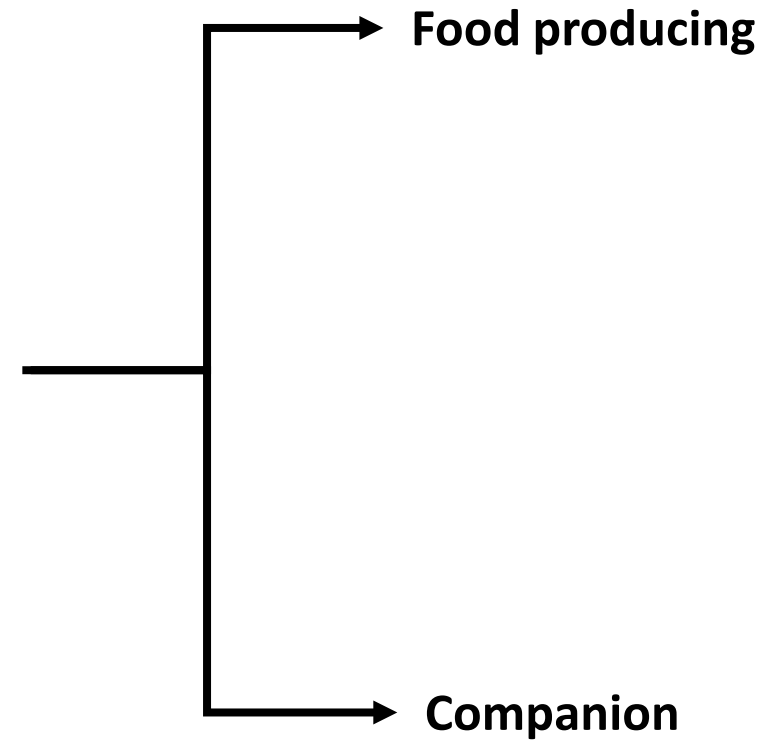


Preparation of uteri samples for ex vivo bacterial inactivation assays



Ex vivo bacterial inactivation

(Balcão et al, 2022)



Equine pyoderma



Article

Topical Bacteriophage Therapy for Staphylococcal Superficial Pyoderma in Horses: A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Pilot Study

Kalie Marshall and Rosanna Marsella *

Abstract: Increased antimicrobial resistance highlights the need for alternatives to antibiotics. Bacteriophages, which are benign viruses that kill bacteria, are promising. We studied the efficacy of topical bacteriophages for treating equine staphylococcal superficial pyodermas. Eight *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates were tested against a bacteriophage bank, and a cocktail consisting of two bacteriophages was prepared. Twenty horses with clinical and cytological evidence of superficial pyoderma and confirmed *S. aureus* infection based on swabbed culture were enrolled in the study. Each horse received both the bacteriophage cocktail and the placebo at two different infection sites, once daily for four weeks. Clinical lesions and cytology were evaluated weekly by an investigator who was unaware of the treatment sites. All infection sites were swabbed and cultured at the end of the study. A linear mixed model showed no significant differences between the placebo and treatment sites in terms of clinical signs, cytological scores of inflammation, and bacterial counts at the end of the study. It is possible that the bacteriophage cocktail killed *S. aureus*, but cytology scores did not change as new populations of cocci took over. The study limitations included a small sample size and inconsistent control of the underlying causes of pyodermas.



Osteoarticular implant

CASE REPORT

OPEN ACCESS

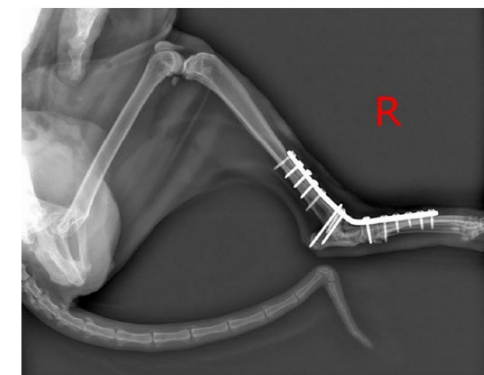


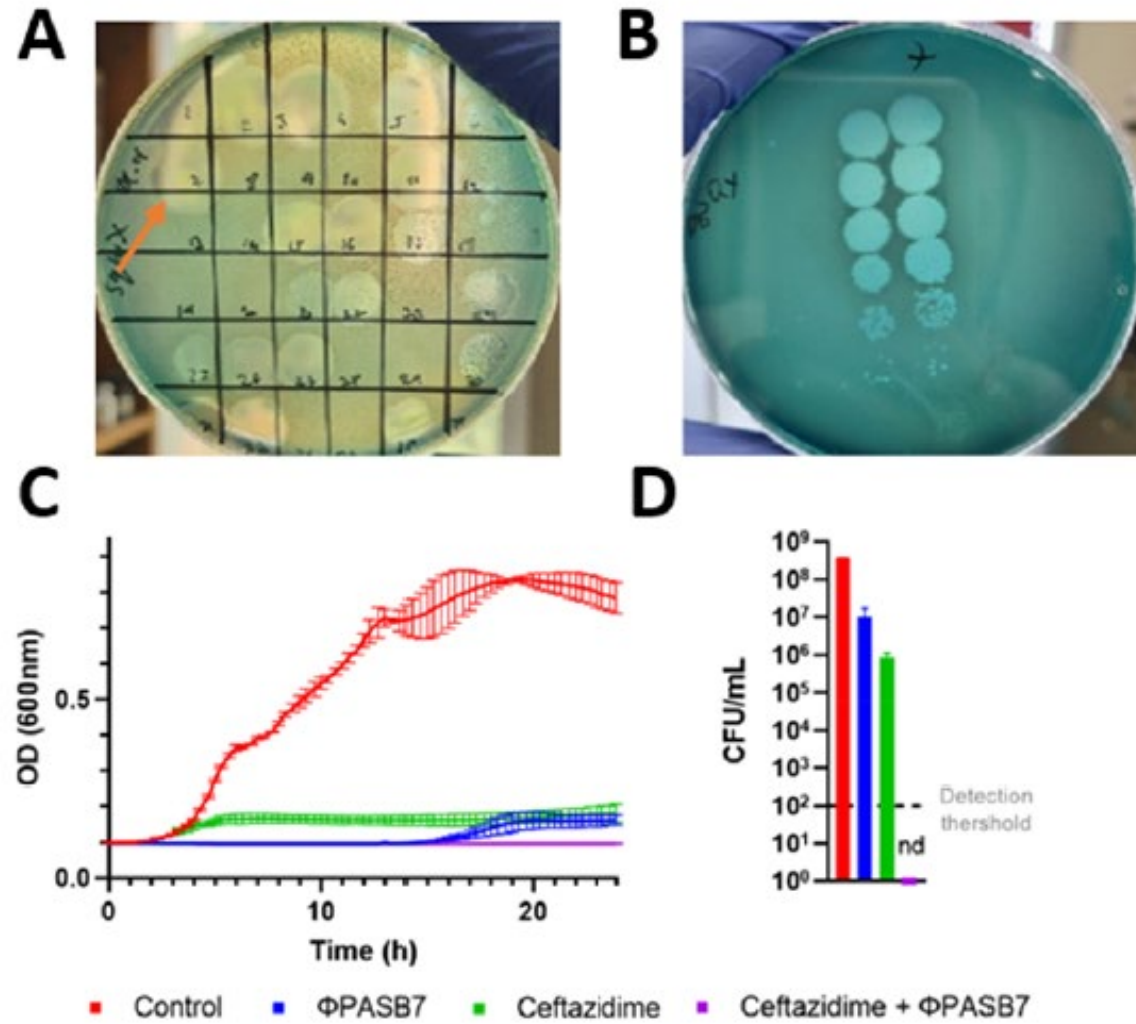
Successful phage-antibiotic therapy of *P. aeruginosa* implant-associated infection in a Siamese cat

Ron Braunstein^a, Goran Hubanic^b, Ortal Yerushalmy^a, Sivan Oren-Alkalay^a, Amit Rimon^{a,c}, Shunit Copenhagen-Glazer^a, Ofir Niv^b, Hilik Marom^b, Alin Barsheshet^b and Ronen Hazan^a

Cases:

- Siamese cat, 5 years old
- Trauma with multiple comminuted fractures in both hind legs and impaired surrounding soft tissues
- Surgery: arthrodesis with internal fixation
- Two-weeks post surgery: necrosis and amputation of left hind leg and implant associated infection caused by *P. aeruginosa*
- Failure of several Ab treatment (4 months)





Phage treatment:

- 1st application, by a vet:
 - Bacteriophage PASB7, topical
 - Ceftazidime: 15 min later, IM
- Next applications, by the owner:
 - Bacteriophage: twice daily during the bandage changes
 - Ceftazidime: 4 times a day

