Animal sampling with plastic swabs pre-moistened in sterile 0.9% NaCl

Swab poured in 5 ml di MHB + 6.5% NaCl; incubation 24 h at 37°C

0.5 ml in 4.5 ml of PRMB + 6.5% NaCl; incubation 24 h at 37°C

0.5 ml in 4.5 ml of PRMB + 6.5% NaCl + 4 µg/ml di oxacillin; incubation 24 h at 37°C

Color change (from yellow to red)

No growth or no color change

Agglutination assay (Staphytech plus, Oxoid)

Positive

Negative

S. aureus

STOP (non-aureus staphylococci)

No growth or no color change

Single colony isolation by streaking 10-µl on selective agar plates for MRSA (Brilliance MRSA 2 agar, Oxoid)

Positive (blue colonies)

Negative (No growth or no blue colonies)

MRSA

STOP (unclassified)

Isolation on MHA + oxacillin 4 µg/ml

Conservation in criovaials -80°C

DNA extraction

Multiplex PCR 16S/nuc/mecA/mecC

DNA storage at -20°C

Figure S2. Flow-chart of S. aureus and MRSA screening procedure. Abbreviations: MHB, Mueller-Hinton Broth; MHA, Mueller-Hinton Agar; PRMB, Phenol Red Mannitol Broth.