

## Online supplement

### Questionnaire sent to veterinary clinicians

**Question:** Have you ever diagnosed what you believe to be a case of delusional infestation by proxy?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes

**Question:** What best describes your practice?

Select one answer

- a. Clinical academia
- b. Emergency medicine practice
- c. First-opinion practice (any species)
- d. Mobile practice
- e. Referral practice (any type)
- f. Relief veterinarian
- g. Other (specify)

**Question:** Where is your practice located?

Select one answer

- a. Africa
  - a. In which African country is your practice located?
- b. Asia or Middle East
  - a. In which Asian country is your practice located?
- c. Australia or New Zealand
  - a. In which Australian State or on which New Zealand Island is your practice located?
- d. Europe (including UK)
  - a. In which European country is your practice located?
- e. South or Central America
  - a. In which South or Central American country is your practice located?
- f. USA or Canada
  - a. In which US State or Canadian Province is your practice located?

**Question:** How would you describe the socioeconomic status of the majority of your client base?

Select one answer

- a. Affluent or wealthy
- b. Lower-middle class
- c. Poor or impoverished
- d. Upper-middle class
- e. Working class
- f. Working poor

**Question:** What veterinary species do you deal with in your practice?

Select all that apply

- a. Birds
- b. Cats
- c. Dogs
- d. Fish
- e. Horses
- f. Large ruminants
- g. Reptiles and amphibians
- h. Small mammals
- i. Small ruminants
- j. Other (specify)

**Question:** Client gender

Select one answer

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Do not recall

**Question:** Approximate age of client

**Question:** Client ethnicity

Select one answer

- a. Asian
- b. Black or African American
- c. Hawaiian
- d. Hispanic or Latino
- e. Mixed race, unspecified
- f. Native American or Alaskan Native
- g. White
- h. Unknown
- i. Other (specify)
- j. Prefer not to answer

**Question:** In what year approximately did the client present for evaluation of the apparent infestation?

**Question:** What was the type of pet in which the client perceived the infestation?

Select one answer

- a. Bird
- b. Cat
- c. Dog
- d. Fish
- e. Horse
- f. Large ruminant
- g. Reptile or amphibian
- h. Small mammal
- i. Small ruminant
- j. Other (specify)

**Question:** What was the breed?

**Question:** What type of organism was perceived by the client?

Select one answer

- a. Bacterium
- b. Insect or arthropod (fleas, ticks, mites, etc.)
- c. Worm
- d. Not specified
- e. Other (specify)

**Question:** Did the client identify any lesions (perceived or real) on the patient?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes

**Question:** Did you identify any lesions on the patient?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes

**Question:** Did the owner claim these lesions were the result of the infestation?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. What type of lesion(s) did you identify?

**Question:** Was any treatment being administered by the client at the time of presentation for the perceived infestation?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. What treatment was being administered by the client? (List all treatments)
  - i. Were there any clinical consequences to the patient from any treatment being administered by the client?

Select one answer

- 1. No
- 2. Yes
  - a. What were the clinical consequences of the client-administered treatment? Type in answer
- 3. I don't recall

**Question:** Did the client present any samples or specimens of the perceived parasite or infesting organism?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - i. What type of specimen or sample did the client present? Type in answer
- c. I don't recall

**Question:** What diagnostic tests did you perform to attempt to identify an infestation?

Select all that apply

- a. Examined a sample presented by the client (gross or microscopic)
- b. Performed a Wood's lamp examination
- c. Performed a bacterial skin culture
- d. Performed a dermatophyte culture
- e. Performed a fecal examination
- f. Performed a physical examination
- g. Performed a skin biopsy
- h. Performed a skin scraping and microscopic evaluation
- i. Performed another type of biopsy
- j. Performed an adhesive tape examination
- k. Performed a flea comb examination
- l. Other (specify)

**Question:** Did you identify any infesting organisms as a result of any of the tests?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes

**Question:** Did the owner demand that the pet be euthanised because of the apparent infestation?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. Did you comply with the client's demand for euthanasia?
    - i. No
    - ii. Yes (go to end of survey)

**Question:** Did you treat the patient's apparent primary condition (the infestation)?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. How did you treat the patient's apparent primary condition (infestation)? Select all that apply
    - a. Administered non-medical therapy

- b. Anti-parasitic wash or shampoo
  - c. Applied or administered ectoparasiticide (topical or oral)
  - d. Prescribed antibiotic therapy
  - e. Prescribed antifungal therapy
  - f. Prescribed dietary modification
  - g. Other (specify)
- Please provide any details you might consider relevant

**Question:** Did you treat the patient's apparently iatrogenically produced lesions?

Select one answer

- a. No
  - b. Yes
    - a. How did you treat the patient's apparent iatrogenic lesions? Select all that apply
      - i. Administered non-medical therapy
      - ii. Anti-parasitic wash or shampoo
      - iii. Applied or administered ectoparasiticide (topical or oral)
      - iv. Prescribed antibiotic therapy
      - v. Prescribed antifungal therapy
      - vi. Prescribed dietary modification
      - vii. Other (specify)
  - c. The patient had no apparent iatrogenic lesions
- Please provide any details you might consider relevant

**Question:** Did you explain to the client that you could detect no infestation of any form?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
- c. I don't recall

**Question:** Did you take any additional actions to resolve the patient's apparent condition?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. What did you do? (Enter text)

**Question:** Was there a resolution to the case?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes
  - a. How did the case resolve?
- c. I don't know

**Question:** Did you take any actions to assist the client with the suspected or identified delusional infestation by proxy?

Select one answer

- a. No
  - b. Yes
    - a. What actions did you take? Select all that apply
      - i. Recommended or advised that they consult a medical health professional
      - ii. Talked to family member about the suspected problem with advice to consult a medical health professional
      - iii. Other
  - c. I don't recall
- Please provide any additional details you might consider relevant. (Enter text)

**Question:** Did the client presenting the pet for perceived infestation claim to be similarly infested (either by transfer from the pet, or by simultaneous infestation)?

- a. No, the client did not claim that they were also affected
- b. Yes, the client claimed that they were also affected
  - a. Did the client demonstrate any cutaneous lesions on their own body to support their claim of parasitosis?
    - i. No
    - ii. Yes

**Question:** Did you observe any cutaneous lesions on the client's face, hands or arms that could be consistent with self-trauma or self-mutilation?

- a. I did not look for lesions on the client
- b. No, I did not observe any lesions on the client
- c. Yes, I observed such lesions

**Question:** Have you ever been asked to euthanise a pet that the client considered infested, but in which you could find no infestation?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes, once
- c. Yes, more than once

**Question:** Have you consulted any resources to determine the best approach (or various alternatives) for dealing with delusional infestation by proxy?

Select one answer

- a. No
- b. Yes

If yes, please detail what resources you consulted (enter text)

**Question:** Please share any additional comments about the case