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 explain to the client that you could detect no infestation of any form?

Select one answer

a. No
b. Yes

**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:** 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

Please provide any additional details you might consider relevant. (Enter text)

**Question:** Did 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

Please provide any additional details you might consider relevant. (Enter text)

**Question:** Did you comply with the client’s demand for euthanasia?

Select one answer

a. No
b. Yes

i. Why did you comply with the client’s demand for euthanasia?
ii. Why did you not comply with the client’s demand for euthanasia?

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