

Review of: "Are Pain and Mourning for a Pet and a Family Member the Same?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for this most interesting manuscript. You have provided what are likely some keen new insights into the field of bereavement following the death of an animal companion. I have a few recommendations for improvement prior to publication.

Abstract

First line in Abstract: Many people live with pets, and for the most part, them.... Should read: Many people live with pets who, for the most part, are considered.... (or rephrase for clarity)

Later in the Abstract, the question under study is proposed as: Are pain and bereavement for a pet and for a family member the same? This question can be answered yes or no. This is not what is reported here. That question is: How are pain and bereavement for a pet and for a family member the same or different.

You present the abbreviation, AC, without the meaning first. You should use animal companions (ACs) first, followed by AC later.

Methods

You mention Appendices 1 and 2, but these were not included in my document. Only Appendix 3 was included, and this is insufficient for me to judge the quality of your work.

You list that "and an additional 25 documents were added through other sources." Please document what these sources were. This information might have been contained in either Appendix 1 or 2, but these were not included in my version of the manuscript.

Discussion

You indicate that "This review was beyond the scope of a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the intensity of mourning for the loss of an AC" Your meaning here is unclear. You did a literature review including both qualitative and quantitative studies. What are you trying to say?

In your reporting, you seem to include individual studies. This is not how a systematic review is reported. You are to gather the information and form ideas from the totality, and not report individual studies. Please review the standards for

reporting this type of literature review. You seem to have identified themes, but you have not reported this appropriately.

Conclusions

You have a number of one-sentence paragraphs in this section. This is not an acceptable form of grammar. You should correct this.