

Review of: "Effect of Animal-Assisted Activities on Symptoms and Emotions of Children with Neoplastic Disease: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript contains a comprehensive and methodologically well-structured investigation, providing a synthesis of the effects of animal-assisted activities on the symptoms and emotions described in the literature of children with neoplastic disease. With the synthesis, it was possible to observe how the protocol was structured, the set of data that was possible to obtain and analyze, highlighting the need for research designs that include other important variables to analyze the effect of these activities.

In fact, it is a relevant topic and needs to be better explored through the development of more robust studies, considering the possibilities of positive impacts on children undergoing treatment for neoplastic diseases. The meta-analysis revealed a small amount of research with low methodological quality; therefore, the conclusion of the study should not state that animal-assisted activities have a promising effect on the anxiety and quality of life of children with neoplastic diseases and on the anxiety of parents/caregivers.