

Peer Review

Review of: "When Cat Rescue Fails — Part 1. Lion-Clip Shaving, enilconazole Bathing and Oral itraconazole Treatment Failed to Control an Iatrogenic *Microsporum canis* Outbreak in a Shelter: but a Novel Ophytrium-chlorhexidine Shampoo and Mousse Treatment Succeeded in the Home"

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Major Concerns

Causal Inference and Study Design

The manuscript draws strong conclusions regarding the superiority of the ophytrium-chlorhexidine protocol despite:

Lack of prospective design

Absence of systematic culture testing immediately before the 2022 seizure

Incomplete laboratory records

Environmental confounders (home decontamination vs. shelter environment)

Confounding Environmental Intervention

The owner implemented significant environmental cleaning and HEPA filtration. It is impossible to separate the effect of:

Topical product

Environmental disinfection

Natural self-resolution of dermatophytosis

Removal from high-density shelter conditions

Tone and Objectivity

Portions of the discussion adopt a prosecutorial tone toward the RSPCA, including speculation about redaction and misconduct. While record gaps are relevant, the scientific manuscript should maintain strict neutrality and avoid legal argumentation unless fully evidenced.

Statistical Interpretation

The hypothetical comparison assuming zero reinfection in all 29 cats to achieve statistical significance ($p = 0.009$) is speculative and methodologically weak. That analysis should either be removed or reframed strictly as exploratory modeling.

Diagnostic Certainty

The claim of 100% sensitivity of Wood's lamp in this setting is based on very small numbers and operator-dependent assessment. This should be softened.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.