

Letters to the Editor

More articles about zoonoses

Thank you for publishing the *JAVMA* News story “Bartonellosis: a zoonosis hidden in plain sight.”¹ Importantly, the article notes that encephalopathy, inflammatory syndromes, and irritability are all potential manifestations of bartonellosis in humans.

Over the past 20 years, I've read countless articles about burnout, compassion fatigue, and suicide in the veterinary profession, but few discuss the possible role of certain zoonoses in these issues. Microbes and mental health are linked. Changes in behavior, cognition, executive functioning, and emotional states can be caused by infections and the body's response to those infections, and some patients with mental illness related to an undiagnosed zoonosis may be given a psychiatric diagnosis, leaving the root problem untreated. If veterinary conferences were to include sessions on zoonotic diseases in humans, it is likely that at least some veterinary professionals in

the audience would have an aha moment as they realize that some of their own health issues might be related to zoonotic disease.

Unfortunately, veterinary medicine has been separated from human medicine in a way that leaves a wide gap in medical knowledge about zoonoses. Veterinarians are trained in zoonoses but physicians often are not. One health attempt to bridge this chasm between veterinary and hu-

man medicine, but there is a long way to go.

I would appreciate more articles in the *JAVMA* about zoonoses and their effects on human physical, mental, and emotional health. I think it would improve and save many lives if you would do so.

Judie Gerber, DVM
Petaluma, Calif

1. Burns K. Bartonellosis: a zoonosis hidden in plain sight. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2021;258:1171-1174.

Instructions for Writing a Letter to the Editor

Readers are invited to submit letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 500 words and 6 references. Letters to the Editor must be original and cannot have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Not all letters are published; all letters accepted for publication are subject to editing. Those pertaining to anything published in the *JAVMA* should be received within 1 month of the date of publication. Submission via email (JournalLetters@avma.org) or fax (847-925-9329) is encouraged; authors should give their full contact information, including address, daytime telephone number, fax number, and email address.

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