

DETERMINANTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH SHORT-TERM ANTIMICROBIAL MEDICATION IN DOG OWNERS

Adams VJ¹, Dowling PM², Shmon CL³, Campbell JR¹ & Waldner CL¹

¹ Department of Herd Medicine and Theriogenology,

² Department of Veterinary Physiological Sciences

³ Department of Veterinary Anesthesiology, Radiology and Surgery

Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan Canada S7N 5B4

There is much written about compliance and health care in the human literature. The extent of non-compliance is a serious problem. Veterinary client compliance has not been studied extensively. There are only four published veterinary studies, all looking at short-term antimicrobial use in dogs¹⁻⁴. In human medicine, the interaction between the physician and patient has been considered an important factor that influences compliance⁵. Thus, one of our hypotheses is that there are components of the human-companion animal relationship that can be identified by veterinarians and used to predict client compliance. Owners of dogs who were prescribed antibiotics for acute, uncomplicated bacterial infections were recruited for this study. The purpose of this study was to investigate the association between dog owner compliance and potential determinants using a questionnaire for data collection. The information provided by this study would assist veterinarians in increasing their clients' compliance with short-term antibiotics. Increased compliance has the potential to result in more treatment successes, less antimicrobial resistance, less infectious disease, timely preventive medicine, improved animal welfare, and less money spent on recurrent problems. The research plan and preliminary findings will be presented.

Reference

1 Bomzon L. Short-term antimicrobial therapy - a pilot compliance study using ampicillin in dogs. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* 1978; 19: 697-700.

2 Barter LS, Watson ADJ, Maddison JE. Owner compliance with short term antimicrobial medication in dogs. *Australian Veterinary Journal* 1996; 74: 277-280.

3 Barter LS, Maddison JE, Watson ADJ. Comparison of methods to assess dog owners' therapeutic compliance. *Australian Veterinary Journal* 1996; 74: 443-446.

4 Grave K, Tanem H. Compliance with short-term oral antibacterial drug treatment in dogs. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* 1999; 40: 158-162.

5 DiMatteo MR, DiNicola DD. The compliance problem: an introduction. In: DiMatteo MR and DiNicola DD eds. *Achieving Patient Compliance - The Psychology of the Medical Practitioner's Role*.

New York: Pergamon Press, 1982: 1-28.