Prevalence of dermatophytosis in dogs and cats in Egypt

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OBJECTIVES
Study the prevalence and identify different Dermatophytes affecting pets in the area.

METHODS
103 symptomatic and asymptomatic animals were recruited; 53 cats and 20 dogs were clinical cases; 30 animals were from a local pet-shop (18 cats and 12 dogs). All animals were given a full clinical and Wood’s lamplight examination; their hair brushings were cultured using standard techniques. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the results & identify emerging patterns.

RESULTS
69% of symptomatic and 16.7% of asymptomatic cats in the clinical group were positive for dermatophytes. 53% asymptomatic pet-shop cats also cultured positive.

33.3% of symptomatic and 9.1% of asymptomatic dogs from the clinical group cultured positive for dermatophytes. 100% of symptomatic & 44.4% of asymptomatic pet-shop dogs were positive for dermatophytes.

Six different dermatophytes species were identified from clinical cat cases (Microsporum (M.) canis, Epidermophyton floccosum, M. praecox, M. gypseum, M. nanum and Trichophyton interdigitale). M. praecox was isolated from clinical cat group (n=3).

Three species of dermatophytes were isolated from dogs in the clinical case group. M. canis predominated (60%), followed by Trichophyton mentagrophytes and Epidermophyton floccosum. Microsporum gypseum was the predominant species (42.86%) in pet-shop dogs.

The incidence of dermatophytosis increased in the spring & winter. Young cats were more likely to be positive for dermatophytosis (P=0.026).

STATEMENT
Incidence of dermatophytosis is higher in this area compared to other countries. Strict hygienic measures should be followed in pet-shops as they have a high infection rate which can lead to infection of newly introduced cats and dogs.

A description of owner-reported flea control measures and skin disease in a cohort of young cats

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OBJECTIVES
Feline skin disease is prevalent within primary care veterinary practice. This study describes owner-reported skin disease within a cohort of pet cats. The type of flea control product used (prescription/non-prescription) was assessed for association with owner-reported skin disease at age 2.5 years.

METHODS
Study data were collected from two owner-completed questionnaires (completed when cats were aged 2–4 months (T1) and 2.5 years (T2)) for cats enrolled on a long-term longitudinal study (‘Bristol Cats’ study). Chi-squared analysis was used to test for association between owner-reports of flea control products used at T1 and at both T1 and T2 (categorised as prescription/non-prescription products), and presence of owner-reported feline skin disease at age 2.5 years.

RESULTS
Feline skin disease at age 2.5 years was reported by owners of 55/1150 (4.8%, 95%CI 3.7-6.2%) study cats. Most (30/55, 54.5%) had not presented their cat to a veterinarian for examination of the condition.

Excluding owners who did not know the brand of flea treatment used at T1 and/or T2 and those reporting using both prescription and non-prescription products, the majority (237/317, 74.8%) used prescription treatments at T1 and at T2.

There was no significant association between owner use of prescription/non-prescription feline flea control at T1 (P=0.7) or at both T1 and T2 (P=0.44) and owner-reported skin disease in cats at 2.5 years.

STATEMENT
Over 50% of owners who reported skin disease did not seek veterinary attention. The category of flea control product (prescription/non-prescription) used did not affect the prevalence of owner-reported skin disease.