Human-animal bond: therapeutic benefits

Database: CAB Abstracts <2000 to 2013 Week 27>
Search Strategy:
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1  "human-animal bond".mp. [mp=abstract, title, original title, broad terms, heading words] (95)
2  "human-animal relationship".mp. [mp=abstract, title, original title, broad terms, heading words] (368)
3  1 or 2 (450)
4  benefit*.mp. [mp=abstract, title, original title, broad terms, heading words] (97311)
5  3 and 4 (42)
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<1>
Accession Number
20133011778
Author
Turner, D. C.; Waiblunger, E.; Meslin, F. X.
Title
Benefits of the human-dog relationship.
Source
Dogs, zoonoses and public health; 2013. (Ed.2):13-23. 46 ref.
Publisher
CABI
Location of Publisher
Wallingford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Most of the chapters in this volume deal with negative aspects of dog-human relationships and the humane ways to reduce or eliminate those problems. It is therefore important to summarize the positive aspects, the benefits of human-dog relationships, from the outset. Although no longer the most popular companion animal in many countries, pet dogs can be found in every country of the world irrespective of their level of economic development or religious heritage. This article discusses the general effects of animals, especially dogs, on the general public: the benefits; therapeutic effects of animals, especially dogs: the benefits; public attitudes to dogs: an international comparison; behaviour towards dogs on the street: a comparison between Amman (Jordan), London (England), and Chennai (India).

<2>
Accession Number
20123212303
Author
Pollock, S. L.; Stephen, C.; Skuridina, N.; Kosatsky, T.
Title
Raising chickens in city backyards: the public health role.
Source
Publisher
Springer
Location of Publisher
New York
Country of Publication
USA

Abstract
There is increasing interest in raising chickens in urban settings across North America. Current regulations on backyard chickens vary by jurisdiction due to concerns about perceived health threats. Proposed negative impacts on public health and community well-being include infectious diseases acquired through rearing practices or consumption of eggs, inappropriate waste management, interaction with pests and predators and nuisance factors such as noise and odour. Proposed benefits are derived largely from the human-animal bond and from feelings of autonomy over food selection. The importance or validity of claims of positive and negative effects cannot be supported by literature specific to the urban agriculture context. Public health practitioners might approach this issue in a manner analogous to concerns over keeping domestic pets.

Accession Number
20123154984

Author
Hosey, G.; Melfi, V.

Title
Human-animal bonds between zoo professionals and the animals in their care.

Source

Publisher
Wiley-Blackwell

Location of Publisher
Hoboken

Country of Publication
USA

Abstract
Some human-animal relationships can be so positive that they confer emotional well-being to both partners and can thus be viewed as bonds. In this study, 130 delegates at zoo research and training events completed questionnaires in which they were asked about their professional work in the zoo and whether they believed they had established bonds with any animals. They were also asked to indicate agreement or disagreement with several statements about human-animal bonds. Results showed that many zoo professionals consider that they have established bonds with some of their animals; 103 respondents believed that they had a bond with at least one animal, and 78 of these identified that the bond was with a zoo animal. The most frequent bonds reported were with primates (n=24) and carnivores (n=28). Perceived benefits of these bonds to the respondents included both operational (animal easier to handle, easier to administer treatments to) and affective (sense of well-being, enjoyment at being with the animal). Identifying benefits to the animals was more difficult. Most respondents identified similar benefits for their animals as for themselves, i.e. operational (animal responded more calmly, appeared less stressed) and affective (animal appeared to enjoy contact with respondent, seemed more content). This suggests that bonding between zoo professionals and their animals could have profound consequences for the management and welfare of the animals, not to mention the job satisfaction of the people involved.

Accession Number
20113194106

Author
Shanan, A.

Title
A veterinarian's role in helping pet owners with decision making. (Special Issue: Palliative medicine and hospice care.)

Source

Publisher
W.B. Saunders

Location of Publisher
Philadelphia
Abstract
End-of-life care frequently requires owners and veterinarians to make decisions of monumental consequences while feeling they sorely lack essential information. This feeling can be distressing to owners and veterinarians and lead to strains in their relationship. This article illustrates an approach to end-of-life decision making that offers the greatest benefit to the animal, the owner, the veterinarian, the veterinary practice, and, ultimately, the veterinary profession. The article introduces issues and concepts that underlie all companion animal end-of-life decision making - the human-animal bond, quality of life, and veterinarians’ nonmedical helping roles - and discusses major end-of-life decisions.
Title
Bond-centered veterinary practice: lessons for veterinary faculty and students.
Source
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education; 2008. 35(4):545-552. 4 ref.
Publisher
University of Toronto Press Inc.
Location of Publisher
Toronto
Country of Publication
Canada
Abstract
We are currently experiencing a paradigm shift in attitudes to companion animals, in part due to our greater understanding of the health and social benefits associated with the human-animal bond (HAB). Recent demographic changes, including smaller family size, increased longevity, and a higher incidence of relationship breakdown, have resulted in a greater dependence on pets for companionship and social support. It is therefore important for the veterinary profession to understand the HAB, keep abreast of knowledge in this field, and apply research findings to help our clients, their companion animals, and the wider society in which we live. How can veterinarians incorporate the HAB into their practices for the benefit of people and animals, and what are the effects of using a bond-centered approach? This article addresses this question, and arises from the experience of a veterinarian who introduced a bond-centered approach to her practice in the United Kingdom over 20 years ago.

<8>
Accession Number
20093117834
Author
Timmins, R. P.
Title
The contribution of animals to human well-being: a veterinary family practice perspective.
Source
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education; 2008. 35(4):540-544. 35 ref.
Publisher
University of Toronto Press Inc.
Location of Publisher
Toronto
Country of Publication
Canada
Abstract
There is considerable evidence that humans can benefit both physically and emotionally from a relationship with companion animals, a phenomenon known as the human-animal bond (HAB). This has not only increased the demand for veterinary services to meet the needs of these non-human family members and their owners, but it has also transformed the nature of those services from reactive medicine and surgery to proactive prevention and wellness. The emotional component of the HAB requires the veterinarian to have a solid understanding of the nature of the attachment between client and pet, and an ability to educate the client about proper care of the animal in order to optimize the relationship. Paying attention to the relationship between client and patient also positions the veterinary family practitioner to refer the client to appropriate community resources for physical, emotional, or other needs of the client that may become apparent during the veterinarian-client interaction. By achieving physical and mental health objectives for patients and collaborating with human health care services, the veterinary family practitioner contributes to the well-being of both patient and client. This new face of veterinary family practice requires research and education in fields that have not traditionally been a part of veterinary training.

<9>
Accession Number
20093117833
Author
Wensley, S. P.
Title
Animal welfare and the human-animal bond: considerations for veterinary faculty, students, and practitioners.
Source
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education; 2008. 35(4):532-539. 67 ref.
Publisher
University of Toronto Press Inc.
Location of Publisher
Toronto
Country of Publication
Canada
Abstract
Consideration of the human-animal bond typically focuses on the benefits of companion animals to human health and well-being, but it is essential that in realizing these benefits the welfare needs of the animals, both physical and mental, are also met. Positive emotional relationships with animals are likely to increase recognition of animal sentience and so help create positive attitudes toward animals at the societal level, but, at the individual level, the animals to which humans are bonded should also benefit from the human-animal relationship. A strong human-animal bond may benefit animal welfare (e.g., by motivating an owner to commit time and funds to necessary veterinary medical treatment), but may also be the source of compromised welfare. Highly bonded owners may, for example, be reluctant to permit euthanasia on humane grounds, and the anthropomorphic nature of many human-companion animal bonds can contribute to the development of problem behaviors and obesity. The challenge for the veterinary profession is to ensure that widespread positive sentiment toward animals, which the human-animal bond generates, is translated into human behavior and actions that are conducive to good animal welfare. This, it is suggested, can be achieved through adequate veterinary education in veterinary and animal welfare science, ethics, and communication.

<10>
Accession Number
20093117831
Author
Hart, L. A.; Wood, M. W.
Title
Source
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education; 2008. 35(4):520-524. 3 ref.
Publisher
University of Toronto Press Inc.
Location of Publisher
Toronto
Country of Publication
Canada
Abstract
Various aspects of the field known as the human-animal bond (HAB), or human-animal interactions, have expanded within veterinary medical education over the past quarter of a century. Using a variety of databases and informed search strategies, relevant information can be accessed, including recent articles, databases, journals, academic centers, societies and associations, programs, and key references. In this paper, methods for accessing resources supporting veterinary education on the HAB are organized into four subject areas: the HAB in veterinary school curricula; social work and support services for veterinary clients; the benefits of the HAB for human well-being, with applications of animal-assisted therapies, activities, and education; and companion animal behavior and welfare concerns. A related Web site can be accessed at http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/humananimalinteractions.html.

<11>
Accession Number
20093117829
Students learn more effectively when they are actively engaged in the learning process. Therefore, case studies have become increasingly popular as a way to teach students about a representative subject. This article discusses the benefits of case studies, with a primary focus on how case studies can help veterinary medical students learn about the human-animal bond. The discussion is particularly aimed at veterinary medicine instructors and discusses how case studies can be used and why they are important. TigerPlace, a pet-friendly, innovative housing facility for older adults, is used as an example of a case study that can be used to teach about, and to study, the human-animal bond. In particular, the article addresses the special advantages of TigerPlace to students with respect to learning about older adults and the bond they have with their pets.

Instruction in animal-assisted therapy (AAT) and animal-assisted activities (AAAs) teaches veterinary medical students to confidently and assertively maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of this union of animals and people. Instruction in AAT/AAA also addresses requirements by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education that accredited schools/colleges of veterinary medicine include in their standard curriculum the topics of the human-animal bond, behavior, and the contributions of the veterinarian to the overall public and professional health care teams. Entry-level veterinarians should be prepared to: (1) assure that animals who provide AAT/AAA are healthy enough to visit nursing homes, hospitals, or other institutions; (2) promote behavior testing that selects animals who will feel safe, comfortable, and connected; (3) advise facilities regarding infection control and ways to provide a safe environment where the animals, their handlers, and the people being visited will not be injured or become ill; and (4) advocate for their patients and show compassion for their clients when animals are determined to be inappropriate participants in AAT/AAA programs. This article presents AAT/AAA terminology, ways in which veterinarians can advocate for AAT/AAA, the advantages of being involved in AAT/AAA, a model AAT/AAA practicum from Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine (TUSVM), and examples of co-curricular activities in AAT/AAA by TUSVM's student volunteers.
Accession Number 20083322992
Author Case, L.
Title Perspectives on domestication: the history of our relationship with man's best friend.
Publisher American Society of Animal Science
Location of Publisher Savoy
Country of Publication USA
Abstract We are a nation of dog lovers. Never before in our history have we spent more time, money, and emotional energy on a group of animals that are kept solely for companionship. Pet food sales are a multi-billion dollar industry, and pet owners are spending more than 11 billion dollars each year on veterinary care. This devotion is further illustrated by the exponential growth of the pet supply industry, including increasing numbers of pet superstores, play-parks, training centers, and doggie day care centers. During the 1980s, recognition of the human-animal bond led to serious study of the roles that dogs play in our lives. These studies have shown that pets provide significant benefits to our emotional, physical, and social well being. It is ironic then, that at a time when we recognize and appreciate our bonds with animal companions, dark elements of this relationship are equally pervasive. Animal shelters in the United States kill between 3 and 4 million dogs and cats annually. Dog fighting, although outlawed, has reached epidemic proportions in some areas of the country. Episodes of animal cruelty and neglect are reported with alarming frequency in the media; so frequently that discussions of the connection between animal cruelty and human violence have become daily parlance. How then did we come to have such paradoxical perceptions and treatment of our canine companions? This question is explored through an examination of the ancestry of the dog and the prevailing myths and facts about domestication. Historical and present-day perceptions of the wolf and the impact that these attitudes may have upon perceptions of dogs are examined.

Accession Number 20083270067
Author Horowitz, S.
Title The human-animal bond: health implications across the lifespan.
Publisher Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.
Location of Publisher New Rochelle
Country of Publication USA
Abstract This article examines the growing body of research that provides support for the many anecdotally reported health benefits resulting from the human-animal bond, including the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, cancer and chronic pain; benefits for paediatric and elderly patients and for early detection of medical conditions. The risk of zoonotic infections are also discussed.

Accession Number 20083047985
Companion animals (pets) exemplify the affinities possible between humans and nonhuman animals. Evidence documenting a diversity of emotional, physical, and therapeutic benefits of pet guardianship (ownership) substantiates sentimental anecdotes from pet owners. Although the literature focuses primarily on the "one to one" benefits accruing from interactions with pets, this paper explores the potential role of pets as facilitators of social interactions and sense of community. The paper uses triangulation to synthesize findings from qualitative and quantitative research undertaken in three Western Australian suburbs. The qualitative data derive from 12 focus groups and quantitative data, from a survey of 339 residents. In both qualitative and quantitative research, pet ownership positively associated with social interactions, favor exchanges, civic engagement, perceptions of neighborhood friendliness, and sense of community. Pets appeared to ameliorate some determinants of mental health such as loneliness. Findings suggest pets have a ripple effect extending beyond their guardians (owners) to non-pet owners and the broader community. Given the high rates of pet residency in neighborhoods, there is merit in further considering the nexus between pets and community health and well being.
high levels of attention to some of their physical and safety needs. The gap between yard and house dogs widened as the category of care moved from Essential to Enriched. Involvement in agility training, being taken to events for pets, and exercising with a member of the family were notable exceptions, in that they occurred in equal proportions for yard and house dogs, and perhaps represent opportunities for yard dogs to be in closer contact with a human caretaker. The results suggest that adoptions of sheltered or rescued dogs to people who plan to keep the pet outside can be made with confidence that the dog will be cared for, but that programs to educate the public on the social needs of dogs and the benefits of keeping dogs indoors might result in increased attention to the needs of the animals, strengthening of the human-nonhuman animal bond, and reduction of relinquishment.

<17>

Accession Number
20073057786
Author
Caprilli, S.; Messeri, A.
Title
Animal-assisted activity at A. Meyer Children's Hospital: a pilot study.
Source
Publisher
Oxford University Press
Location of Publisher
Oxford
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
The authors systematically studied the introduction of animal-assisted activity into a children's hospital in Italy. This pilot study examined the reactions of children, their parents and the hospital staff and the hospital-wide infection rate before and after the introduction of animals. The SAM (self-assessment manikin), three behavioral scales, analysis of children's graphic productions, a parent questionnaire and a staff questionnaire were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention. The children's participation was calculated. The analysis of the hospital infection rate was completed independently by the Hospital Infections Committee. The authors found that the presence of infections in the wards did not increase and the number of children at the meetings with pets in the wards was high (138 children). The study also found that the presence of animals produced some beneficial effects on children: a better perception of the environment and a good interaction with dogs. All parents were in favor of pets in the hospital, and 94% thought that this activity could benefit the child, as did the medical staff, although the staff needed more information about safety. The introduction of pets into the pediatric wards in an Italian children's hospital was a positive event because of the participation of hospitalized patients, the satisfaction expressed by both parents and medical staff, and the fact that the hospital infection rate did not change and no new infections developed after the introduction of dogs.

<18>

Accession Number
20073038398
Author
Brandt, J. C.; Grabill, C. M.
Title
Communicating with special populations: children and older adults. (Effective Communication in Veterinary Practice.)
Source
Publisher
W.B. Saunders
Location of Publisher
Philadelphia
Country of Publication
This article highlights the importance of the human-animal bond for children and older adults, addresses issues of pet loss and provides suggestions for meeting the communication needs of both populations. This article is divided into 2 sections. The first section focuses on the developmental benefits of the bond between children and animals and provides practical suggestions for developing child-friendly practices. The second section discusses how the developmental changes experienced by the elderly may influence encounters with veterinary professionals.

Accession Number
20063217044

Author
Crawford, E. K.; Worsham, N. L.; Swinehart, E. R.

Title
Benefits derived from companion animals, and the use of the term "attachment".

Source

Publisher
Purdue University Press

Country of Publication
USA

Abstract
Researchers have discovered that companion animals can physically and psychologically benefit their owners, and some argue that one’s attachment to a companion animal influences those benefits. However, those studying the human-companion animal bond have used measures of attachment that may not be congruent with the school of attachment theory as it is applied to human-human relationships. We propose that the term “attachment” applied to human-companion animal relationships in research to date may share aspects of traditional attachment theory, but does not necessarily parallel attachment theory accurately. This paper provides a discussion of the similarities and differences between traditional attachment theory and measurements of human-companion animal attachment, and a review of the literature on physical and psychological benefits derived from companion animals. We conclude with a brief discussion of new research and future directions.

Accession Number
20063063221

Author
Banks, M. R.; Banks, W. A.

Title
The effects of group and individual animal-assisted therapy on loneliness in residents of long-term care facilities.

Source
Anthrozoos; 2005. 18(4):396-408. 23 ref.

Publisher
Purdue University Press

Country of Publication
USA

Abstract
Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) has been shown to reduce the loneliness of residents in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). In this study, we determined the relative contribution of socialization (human-human bonding) and human-animal bonding as mechanisms by which AAT reduces loneliness. Residents in LTCFs volunteering for AAT were randomized to receive AAT as individuals (Individual) or in groups of two to four (Group). Individual AAT was used as a measure of animal-human bonding,
and Group AAT was used as a measure of the combination of animal-human bonding and socialization. Any greater effect of Group AAT in comparison to Individual AAT would be ascribed to socialization. Thirty-seven residents of LTCFs, who were cognitively intact, volunteered for AAT, and scored as significantly lonely on the UCLA Loneliness Scale (Version 3), were studied. Six weeks of AAT, one 30-minute session per week, in an individual or group setting was performed, with posttesting during week five. Two residents dropped out of each group, giving us group sizes of 17 (Individual) and 16 (Group). A two-way ANOVA showed a statistically significant effect of pretest vs. posttest scores ($F_{(1,31)}=25.3, p<0.001$), with no effect of Group vs. Individual or of interaction. Newman Keuls post-hoc tests showed that the pretest scores for Individual and Group participants did not differ. There was a significant difference between pretest and posttest scores for Individual participants ($p<0.05$) but not for Group participants. There was no difference between the posttest values for Individual vs. Group. When the data from all 33 participants were combined, Delta scores (pretest minus posttest), correlated positively ($p<0.01$) with pretest scores, showing that lonelier individuals benefited more from AAT. In conclusion, AAT was more effective in improving loneliness in residents of LTCFs when given individually than in a group situation. Therefore, the main effect of AAT was not mediated by socialization.

<21>
Accession Number 20063041427
Author Davis, B. W.; Nattrass, K.; O'Brien, S.; Patronek, G.; MacCollin, M.
Title Assistance dog placement in the pediatric population: benefits, risks, and recommendations for future application.
Publisher Purdue University Press
Location of Publisher Indiana
Country of Publication USA
Abstract Assistance animals have long been recognized for their value in enhancing the lives of adults with disabilities by increasing the physical independence, confidence, and social lives of their handlers. Recently, this concept has been applied to the growing population of children with physical disabilities and developmental impairments, though the benefits and risks of these placements have not been thoroughly assessed. Our study used interviews to evaluate the outcome of placing assistance dogs in the pediatric population, looking specifically at the unique advantages and disadvantages of this application of the human-animal bond. We administered a structured interview assessing risks and benefits of assistance dog relationships to 17 families with a child under 18 years who graduated from a single provider (NEADS) over a five-year time period. Benefits were found in 88% of families, and were overwhelmingly social and cognitive, with additional physical and medical benefits for the pediatric client. However, risks, including behavioral, financial, and time/cost issues were significant, becoming a burden in 53% of families. Perhaps more than with adult placements, we found that it was of prime importance to understand the assistance animal in the context of the family, rather than just in relation to the individual with a disability. It is hoped that results of this and future studies will enhance the welfare of both client and assistance animal, as well as the overall success of this unique human-animal relationship.

<22>
Accession Number 20063033754
Author Cheong, S. K.; Teoh, H. J.; Suttiwan, P. C.; Borvonsin, V.
Title Owning a pet: a comparison of Malaysian and Thai pet and non-pet owner's mental health.
Source

Abstract

The mental health status of 400 pet and non-pet owners in Malaysia and Thailand were compared. Whilst no significant differences were observed on global scores of self-esteem and self-efficacy, it was observed that trends indicated slightly better mental health amongst pet owners. In terms of self-esteem, pet owners felt more competent and felt that other people felt glad to be with them. In addition, more pet owners thought that they were not boring as they felt they had a better sense of humour. Pet owners also felt better about themselves and were generally not ashamed to be themselves. When the respondents were asked to evaluate their ability to perform tasks, pet owners, as compared with non-pet owners, felt that they were more able to make plans and ensure that the plans worked better. Besides that, pet owners generally did not tend to give up easily as they would persist on trying at tasks until they completed the task. Results indicated that there were many subtle mental health benefits to owning a pet.

Accession Number
20063033753

Author
Teoh, H. J.; Cheong, S. K.; Suttiwan, P. C.; Borvonsin, V.

Title
Bonding between pet and pet owner.

Source

Abstract

The interactions between 200 pet owners and their pets were observed in this study. In general, the study also found that the more social support the pet provided for their owner, the stronger the emotional bond between pet and owner. Pet owners were also asked to say how important their pets were in various situations. Generally, pet owners thought that they needed their pets most during their free time, and when they were lonely. Many pet owners thought that their pets were important to them during their childhood. Some pet owners felt that their pets were important when their spouse was not around. In troubled times, many pet owners sought comfort from their pets. They felt that they needed their pets when there was relationship problem, and when a family member was ill. Many pet owners reported regularly playing with, and patting their pets. Thus, the study results implied that strong bonds between pet owner and pet resulted in many social support benefits for the pet owner.

Accession Number
20053169079

Author

Title
What's in it for the companion animal? Pet attachment and college students' behaviors toward pets.

Source

Publisher
Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc.

Location of Publisher
Mahwah

Country of Publication
USA

Abstract

Research on the human-nonhuman animal bond has focused primarily on its advantages to the human. The purpose of this study is to investigate behaviors of caregivers (owners) of companion animals (pets) and to examine the relationship between such behaviors and scores on a pet attachment scale. Participants were 501 largely nontraditional (older, married, employed full-time)
college students living with a pet dog or cat. The study categorized owner behaviors as essential, standard, enriched, or luxury care. Almost all participants reported engaging in essential care behaviors, with numbers declining from category to category. Pet attachment scores appeared related to standard and enriched care behaviors but not to essential care. Too few participants reported doing luxury care behaviors to link them to attachment. The results suggest that even pet owners reporting low attachment provide beneficial care and attention to their pets and that pet attachment may be of limited use when looking at the benefit of the human-animal bond to the companion animal.

Accession Number
20053163356
Author
Title
Feline behavior guidelines from the American Association of Feline Practitioners.
Source
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association; 2005. 227(1):70-84. 74 ref.
Publisher
American Veterinary Medical Association
Location of Publisher
Schaumburg
Country of Publication
USA
Abstract
The benefits of living with a pet are now well recognized. By preventing and treating behavior problems, veterinarians have the opportunity to protect and strengthen the human-animal bond and increase the quality of life for pets and pet owners. The goal of the American Association of Feline Practitioners Feline Behavior Guidelines is to support veterinarians by providing practical information that will help successfully incorporate feline behavior medicine into any practice that offers feline health care.

Accession Number
20033074274
Author
Odendaal, J. S. J.; Meintjes, R. A.
Title
Neurophysiological correlates of affiliative behaviour between humans and dogs.
Source
Veterinary Journal; 2003. 165(3):296-301. 29 ref.
Publisher
Bailliere Tindall Ltd
Location of Publisher
London
Country of Publication
UK
Abstract
Few physiological parameters for positive human-companion animal contact have been identified and those that are established have all been in humans. The implication is that if the physiological reactions are mutual, dogs would experience the same psychological benefits from these neurophysiological changes as humans. Therefore, we have determined the role of certain neurochemicals during affiliation behaviour on an interspecies basis. Our results indicate that concentrations of beta-endorphin, oxytocin, prolactin, beta-phenylethylamine, and dopamine increased in both species after positive interspecies interaction, while that of cortisol decreased in the humans only. Indicators of mutual physiological changes during positive interaction between dog lovers and dogs may contribute to a better understanding of the human-animal bond in veterinary practice.