Reviewer’s report

Title: Does owning a pet protect older people against loneliness?

Version: 2 Date: 4 July 2014

Reviewer: Adam L Gordon

Reviewer’s report:

I have no specific issues with the content of the article;
- The research question are well phrased.
- The methodology chosen (post-hoc analysis of large prospectively collected database) is sound.
- The statistics used seem appropriate (although I think a quick once over by a statistician would be sensible).
- The conclusions drawn are supported by the data, do not over-reach and state appropriate research questions going forward.

I do, however, have an issue with the quality of the written English, which is clumsy in places, with missing conjunctions and prepositions, and it needs tidying up. I wonder if one of the two senior authors on the paper might take the time to go through it with a fine tooth comb and ensure that it flows a bit better than it does at present.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.