Reviewer's report

Title: Cyclical changes in seroprevalence of leptospirosis in California sea lions: endemic and epidemic disease in one host species?

Version: 4 Date: 4 September 2007

Reviewer: Lee LD Smythe

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Thankyou for your responses to my earlier comments on the manuscript. The only concern I raise is that the authors have not used the Taxonomic Sub committee for Leptospiraceae recommended nomenclature. The correct species designations and species/serovars can be found from the International Leptospirosis Site (ILS). The old Interrogans covering pathogenic species is considered redundant ie. from the ILS site "At its 2002 meeting, the Committee on the Taxonomy of Leptospira of the International Union of Microbiological Societies approved the following nomenclature for serovars of Leptospira. Genus and species must of course be italicized, with the serovar name not italicized and with an upper case first letter. Members are requested to adhere to this official nomenclature and to insist upon it in all papers they review".

There are now a broader number of species designated for serovars not all are under Interrogans.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'