Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with pastoral community knowledge and occurrence of mycobacterial infections in Human-Animal Interface areas of Nakasongola and Mubende districts, Uganda

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Reviewer: Paul Torgerson

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General Comments
A potentially interesting manuscript but requires a major revision before it is acceptable for publication. This includes improving the clarity and shortening the manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revision
In all regression analyses use age as a continuous variable rather than a categorical variable.
Remove all results based on univariate analysis. This may be useful during the initial screening of variables and hence may be mentioned for this reason in the materials and methods, but the results of univariate analysis are not useful because of all the potential correlation and confounding of the variables. Hence in this type of study the results of univariate analysis have no interpretation.

The authors make quite a play in the discussion on the possibility of airborne transmission of Mycobacteria. This is certainly true of M. tuberculosis from humans to humans. However, for M. bovis, which is a major part of this manuscript, there is very little cattle to human transmission by aerosol. Aerosol transmission to humans is a widespread misconception. A recent review by Torgerson and Torgerson (2010) includes a detailed analysis of the evidence for cattle to human spread of M. bovis by aerosol (including in Africa) and I would refer the authors to consult this publication.


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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests