Reviewer’s report

Title: Protective practices against zoonotic infections among rural and slum communities from South Central Chile

Version: 1 Date: 12 March 2015

Reviewer: Heather Fowler

Reviewer’s report:

I have only minor discretionary revisions:

1) In line 149 you introduce the idea of preventive veterinary care for livestock and pets. It is not clear until line 167 that poultry are being included in this category as they are not considered livestock. It is also unclear whether poultry were accounted for in the tables or the text (see lines 264-270). Are they in fact being included under livestock? If so, I would suggest adding a separate category for poultry or using a broader umbrella term like food or production animal species [and horses].

2) Related to the previous comment line 149 states that the inclusion criteria for the practice of preventive veterinary care was treatment of at least one animal (pet or livestock). Care of only one animal in a herd of flock is generally ineffective at preventing the spread of a disease within the group. Consider restricting this criteria further or presenting data for those with a proportion of animals treated. Were other preventive practices, i.e. quarantine/isolation, observed or considered?

3) In lines 232-233 it mentions that cats weren’t included as a protective practice against rodent control though a significant association was found between cat ownership and rodent trapping suggesting that these pets were in fact used for this purpose. Were any other data regarding pet ownership collected that confirmed this hypothesis? Were they asked the purpose of pet ownership, i.e. companionship vs. rodent control, etc.?

Finally please review the manuscript for typos and grammatical errors.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests