Reviewer’s report

Title: Animal-Assisted Therapy at a University Center for Palliative Medicine - a Retrospective Qualitative and Quantitative Observational Study

Version: 0 Date: 26 May 2017

Reviewer: Gregory Crawford

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written and interesting piece of work. There is in line 126 some clumsy English. The use of "their" and pseudonymised and anonymised is clumsy and a possibility might be "after data was de-identified.

There are a few problems with the usual convention of writing out in full numbers less than 10 and at the beginning of sentences

Figure 3 does not have units on x axis

I was surprised that Chur-Hansen A et al Furry and Feathered Family Members - A critical review of their role in palliative care in American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine 2014 is not cited as a recent addition to this literature

The description of the Palliative Care Unit would have been strengthened by putting in one place in the manuscript a description of the unit including the bed numbers, the average length of stay, the discharge/death rate to give more context and to assist with international readers with differing models of inpatient care units.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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