

The Internet and health information: differences in pet owners based on age, gender, and education

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APPENDIX B

Pet owner survey B

1. How often do you use the web or Internet either at home or at work:
 Many times per day Daily Not daily, but at least once a week
 Not weekly, but at least once a month Less than once a month Not at all
2. How often do you use the Internet to look for pet health information?
 Many times per day Daily Not daily, but at least once a week
 Not weekly, but at least once a month Less than once a month Not at all

If you *do* use the Internet for pet health information, please continue to question 3.
 If you *do not* use the Internet for pet health information, please skip to question 12.

3. Searching for pet health information on the Internet has:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Affected my decision(s) about how to treat my pet's illness or condition					
Changed my overall approach to maintaining my pet's health					
Changed the way I cope(d) with my pet's chronic condition or manage(d) his/her pain					
Affected my decision about whether to take my pet to the veterinarian					
Led me to ask my veterinarian new questions					
Led me to get a second opinion from another veterinarian					
Helped me better understand my pet's health issues					
Made me better able to communicate with my veterinarian about my pet's health					
Helped me make better choices about my pet's health					

8. In general, please rate how trustworthy you find the following sources of pet health information:

	Very trustworthy	Trustworthy	Neutral	Untrustworthy	Very untrustworthy
Veterinarian					
Internet websites					
Blogs or discussion groups					
Television					
Family or friends					
Magazines					
Newspapers					
Pamphlets or flyers					
Radio					
Other pet owners with similar problems					

9. When reading information on pet health websites, how often do you check the accuracy of the information?

- Almost always Most of the time Only sometimes
 Hardly ever Never Don't know

10. How do you check the accuracy of pet health information you find on the Internet (select all that apply)?

- Discuss with your veterinarian
 Compare information from other/additional websites
 Compare with non-Internet sources (print sources, TV, etc.)
 Discuss with family or friends
 Do not check accuracy

11. How important are the following in influencing your perception of a website's accuracy:

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Endorsement by a government agency or professional organization					
Reliable source or author and his/her credentials					
Understandability of information					
Site is updated frequently					
Layout and appearance of site					

Sponsored by a
reputable drug
company
Medical advertising is
on the site

12. If you do not use the Internet for pet health information, please indicate the reason why
(select as many as apply):

- I do use the Internet for pet health information
- No access to Internet
- Unfamiliar with Internet
- No interest in information about pet health
- No interest in searching on the Internet
- No confidence in the Internet as source of health care information
- Would rather talk to my vet
- Other...

Please answer the following questions about yourself:

Your age: 20-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 over 60

Your gender: Male Female

Your home zip code: _____

Your education: please circle the highest level of education you have completed:

Some high school HS/GED Some college 2-year degree
 4-year degree Graduate degree

Additional comments:

Thank you for your time!