

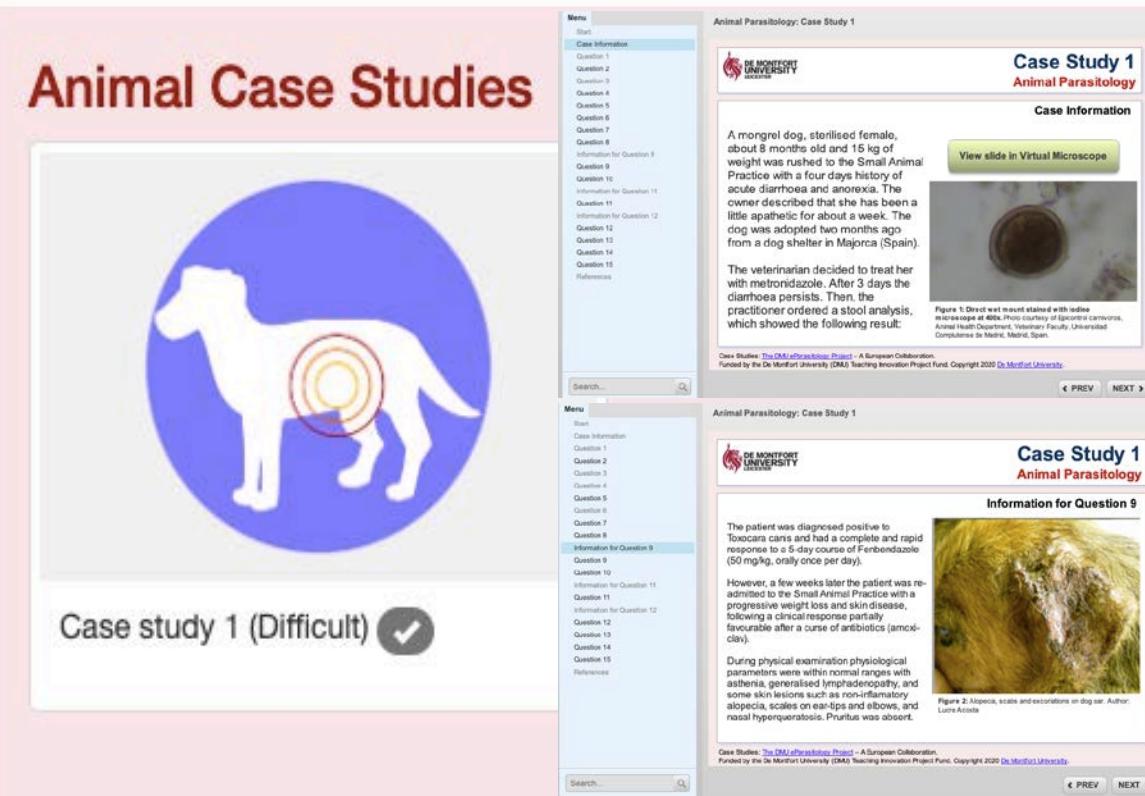
Teaching resources for tackling emerging parasitic zoonoses in companion animals

Peña-Fernández A¹, Montoya A², Acosta L³, Ollero D⁴, Angulo S⁴, Magnet A⁴, Miró G²

¹Leicester School of Allied Health Sciences, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE19BH, UK. ²Department of Animal Health, Veterinary Faculty, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain. ³Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche. Crta. Valencia Km 8.7, 03550 San Juan, Alicante, Spain. ⁴Facultad de Farmacia, Universidad San Pablo CEU, Urbanización Montepríncipe, Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain.



INTRODUCTION Recent reports have highlighted an erosion of the teaching of veterinary parasitology throughout Europe, despite this discipline being fundamental to tackle emerging parasitic zoonoses not only in livestock but also in companion animals. The DMU e-Parasitology[®] international teaching innovation team have started to create innovative virtual resources and specific content for the teaching and learning of animal parasitology, which are available on the De Montfort University (DMU, UK): <http://parasitology.dmu.ac.uk>

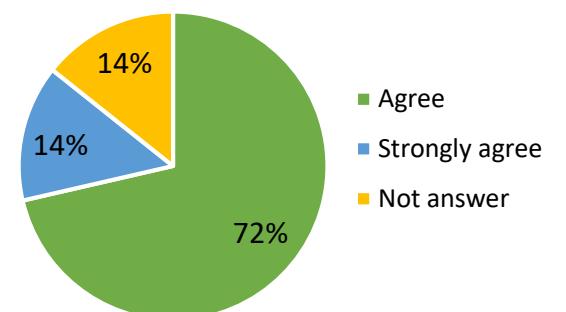


To assess the effectiveness of the first resources created for the teaching and learning of important zoonotic parasites affecting companion animals (*Leishmania* spp. and *Toxocara* spp.), we have carried out the following pilot experience. During their Clinical Rotation, ten final year veterinary students completed two short MCQs with questions related to life cycle, treatment, management and prevention, before and after completing the novel animal parasitology virtual case study http://parasitology.dmu.ac.uk/learn/case-studies/animal_cs1/story_html5.html.

RESULTS

A Wilcoxon test showed a general non-significant increment in correctness in students' responses after an MCQ test, which was significant for questions related to prevention. Moreover, participants provided comprehensive feedback: 85.7% (71.4% agree, 14.3% strongly agree) reported that completing the virtual animal clinical case study increased their knowledge of the parasitic diseases studied.

Increased knowledge



In **CONCLUSION**, the initial novel resources created on animal parasitology available in the DMU e-Parasitology[®] package could help students to acquire different practical skills to perform clinical diagnosis and management of the parasitic diseases studied in companion animals, specifically related to prevention.