

CRITICAL REVIEW ABSTRACT

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Title: Status of Instrument Development in the Field of Human-Animal Interactions

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Introduction: The importance of using appropriate tools to measure human-animal interactions (HAI) is widely recognised. Continuing on from Wilson and Netting's (2012) review of HAI instruments up to 2008, this paper presents the results of a systematic literature review for HAI questionnaires created between 2009 and 2018, and discusses the current status of HAI tool design, suitability for use, limitations, and areas for further research.

Methodology: A systematic literature review was carried out to identify tools to measure human-animal interactions, attachments, and bonds, which were created in the ten-year period since previous reviews ended (i.e. 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2018).

Main Findings: Twenty-nine HAI questionnaires were identified using two sets of search terms. Measurement of companion animal HAIs dominated the instrument field, however, tools to assess HAI between exotic/zoo animals and keepers were also present. Some questionnaires began to explore evidence of relationship styles in addition to simply whether a bond or attachment was present. Tools showed a bias towards questions focussed on the human side of the HAI dyad, and most questionnaires had face validity, however 11 reported no other forms of validity/reliability testing.

Principal Conclusions and Implications for Field: Refinement of HAI terminology and a consistent use of definitions would assist efficiency of future interdisciplinary literature searches. Tools for working assistance animals were poorly represented and suggested that tailoring tools for purpose, not just for specific species, would be useful scope for future research. Prospective questionnaires must ensure that the animal's contribution to the HAI is fairly represented in questionnaire design, and ideally fully report validity/reliability testing to ensure published tools are fit for purpose and meet their construct validity.

References:

Wilson, C.C. and Netting, F.E., (2012) The status of instrument development in the human-animal interaction field. *Anthrozoös* **25**(1), pp.s11-s55.