Making happy families: Case studies

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When pets in a household are fighting it can take a bit of work to untangle what is happening. Owner perceptions, societal norms and beliefs about animals may colour what clients believe is happening. Sometimes they are right and sometimes the animal needing help for its mental health disorder is not the one the owners think.

When handling a case of inter-pet aggression understanding the normal social behaviour of the species is important and then screening all pets for mental health disorders is required to identify the one or ones needing help.

Strategies for management need to take into account the way the household works and limitations of space and time. Multi modal treatment is needed encompassing medication, environmental management and behaviour modification to help a household settle.