Title:

Tips for creating a clinical case study in PubMed

"PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians" URL:

http://cases.vetmoodle.org/CET_CoursePlayer/demo1/public/pubmed.html

Digital collection of the documents for the "PubMed Tutorial for Veterinarians":

http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/158203

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Tips on creating a clinical case for searching PubMed

1. Devise a clinical need for searching the literature.

   The need can be any problem or question where a veterinarian requires information from scientific literature to solve or answer. Some examples where veterinarians would need more information are:
   - Using a newly available drug
   - Creating treatment plans
   - Determining risk for disease transmission routes in zoonotic diseases.

2. Craft a problem that provides at least three, reasonably easy to identify search terms.

   Two search terms should be likely starting terms chosen from incomplete understanding of the problem. These first terms need to return numerous results that can easily be refined by using filters and additional terms once more information is provided. For example, the animal and disease diagnosis may be provided at the beginning of the tutorial, but not the treatment options. When you later add another term based on the treatment plan, and use the filters, the results should be noticeably narrowed to less than 100 results.

3. Present an opportunity to gain/gather more information.

   This added information is then used to narrow the beginning search by adding a term, or terms, to the starting two. This could be a specific treatment method the veterinarian is considering, a new symptom in a patient, or it could be a newly available drug. The new information should provide another term, or terms, that effectively narrows the search. For an introductory student, these terms should be easy to identify, and simple to implement into the search. Save the failed searches for a more advanced tutorial.

4. Wrap up the case.

   Summarize the information needs of the case, and express what the final outcome for the patient and owners.