The "pet-human" bond has been discussed with increasing frequency by members of our profession.

While I am impressed by the increasing awareness of this critical subject so central to treating companion animals, I am also struck by the almost complete absence amongst veterinarians of qualifications on the human side of that equation.

Not only is there an almost complete lack of qualifications in the social sciences amongst our profession, there seems to be a certain amount of contempt for the study of the social sciences.

To gain expertise in the social sciences requires formal study, just like acquiring veterinary expertise does. To presume to just "pick it up as one goes along" is not good enough for our precious clients, each with their own unique pet-human bond, which many of my colleagues claim to treat while bereft of any credentials on the human side of the pet-human equation.

Another important benefit reaped through the study of the social sciences is tolerance and appreciation for colleagues with differing personality types and correspondingly different professional styles.

Sadly, such is lacking within our profession in my experience and underscores the urgent need for Veterinarians to undertake formal education in human psychology if our profession is to move forward with integrity.

Veterinary education alone does NOT make you a therapist of the pet-human bond.