

Correspondence

Magician's asthma

To the Editor:

The "Clinical pearls" review entitled "Exotic pet allergy" by Phillips and Lockey¹ brought to mind a case I saw many years ago of a 35-year-old male engineer without prior allergy but with a 6-month history of rhinoconjunctivitis and asthma, the latter requiring daily medication for control. Further history revealed that the patient also worked as a professional magician and that he had obtained a rabbit to pull out of a hat 2 months before the onset of symptoms.

Initial skin test results were negative to the commonly tested allergens, including mites, pollens, molds, and dog and cat dander, but the result of a subsequent test with rabbit extract was positive. The rabbit was removed from the act, and the patient became free of symptoms off medication.

Phillips and Lockey¹ are indeed correct when they state that "allergists/immunologists should query patients regarding contact with any and all indoor house pets, in addition to exposure to dogs and cats. Asking whether or not an animal exists in the home is not adequate."

Jeffrey D. Miller, MD

From Mission: Allergy, Inc, Hawleyville, Conn. E-mail: JeffreyMillerMD@comcast.net.

Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: J. D. Miller is President and CEO of Mission: Allergy, Inc.

REFERENCE

1. Phillips JF, Lockey RF. Exotic pet allergy. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2009;123:513-5.

doi:10.1016/j.jaci.2009.03.043