

# Diagnostic Exercise 1

An exercise in deductive logic.

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Split femurs from two adult cats of approximately equal size. One animal was severely and



chronically infested with fleas, and one was chronically lame due to severe osteoarthritis of the stifle joint.

Can you relate these specimens to the conditions in these cats?  
(Please note; I didn't say that the two conditions were present in *each* cat!).

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## Hints:

*Careful* reading of the history is crucial (as ever).

The next step is recognition and description of perceived abnormality/ies.

Then relation must be made between the abnormalities and the basic class/es of disease that might be present. These disease classes are ranked in order of probability.

Specific diagnoses are advanced in order of probability, so that explanations for the observed abnormalities are provided (unifying hypothesis).

*(for those who are interested, this was a Kodachrome original, scanned at 2400DPI and manipulated as a .TIF file, before compressing down to 140kB. If you want a closer view, the image should bear enlarging to 200%).*

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For discussion of this case, reply to [roger-kelly@aapt.net.au](mailto:roger-kelly@aapt.net.au)