



“Moai”

DC Client Case Scenario #001

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Note: Appearance of [brackets] in text below denotes approved alternative answers to accommodate simulated clients of differing ages and/or genders. All other details and/or character descriptions should be incorporated as written. Please consult your director if you are unsure as to which option(s) are most appropriate for you.

Character(s):

Stephanie [Steven] Philips—Still reeling from the recent loss of her beloved cat Easter, Stephanie is nevertheless resolved that something must change regarding her one surviving and increasingly pitiful cat Moai, a change they hope to instigate by first soliciting a fresh professional opinion.

Moai – Named after the mystical status dotting the shoreline of Easter Island, Moai (pronounced “Moe-eye”) is a cat in remarkable discomfort, both physical and emotional, the combined effects of which have become increasingly annoying and frustrating for their otherwise sympathetic and devoted owner(s).

Setting:

Time: Current Season

Location: A small animal clinic located in your hometown of Coeur d’Alene, ID. Because you are in search of a second opinion, today marks the first time you and/or Moai have ever frequented this clinic.

Given Circumstances:

Client Background:

- A) Both Stephanie and her spouse [significant other] have full-time employment outside the home in non-medical professions.
- B) The Philips’ have no children [have adult children who reside elsewhere]
- C) Close friends describe Stephanie as a good listener, intelligent and warm. Though eager to get to the bottom of Moai’s discomfort Stephanie is not abrasive, but rather conducts herself with characteristic clam.
- D) Though the Philips’ remain financially sound, their recent experience with Easter has raised their budget consciousness thus compelling them to request cost estimates associated with various tests/procedures before signing off on them.

Patient Description:

- A) **Age/Gender:** 2-year old castrated male
- B) **Breed/Color:** Gray domestic shorthair

- C) Length of ownership:** Adopted from local no-kill sanctuary at 8 weeks with sister Easter
- D) Diet:** Science diet indoor cat formula, free choice – i.e., food is always available. Treats include deli turkey breast, tuna water and the occasional amount of canned whipped cream, which he LOVES 😊
- a. **Appetite:** has been noticeably reduced for the past 2 weeks, though his water consumption seems unchanged.
 - b. Appears thinner perhaps as a result of reduced appetite.
- E) Activity level:** Exclusively indoor cat. Once frisky and affectionate, over the past 3 months Moai has begun “sulking – i.e. avoiding/ignoring contact.
- F) Medical History:**
- a. Had respiratory infection and worms at time of adoption. Moai’s primary veterinarian treated with dewormer.
 - b. Regularly vaccinated as advised for indoor cats and is up to date
 - c. Developed chronic itchiness and hair loss at approx. 1-year old.
 - i. Former vet administered some sort of steroid shot whenever cat seemed especially uncomfortable.
 - 1. A total of 4 individual injections over the past year, with the last being 2 months prior.
 - 2. Shots provided temporary relief, but symptoms always returned within 8 weeks.
 - ii. No tests have been run, besides the shots
 - d. Moai occasionally coughs up hairballs and has fur in his stool.
 - e. Symptoms seem constant regardless of the season of the year.
- G) Misc.:** Moai does not travel and since losing his sister Moai is an “only child” – i.e. there are no other pets.

Miscellaneous:

Easter (Moai’s littermate) was euthanized 3 months prior. She had accidentally gotten into the garage and ingested antifreeze. Despite heroic and costly efforts to save her, the damage was too great and she had to be put down.

Client Complaint:

Chronically itchy since he was 1 year old, which causes him to groom constantly, regularly resulting in small pea-sized scabs, Moai’s discomfort seems to have escalated of late resulting in an unprecedented 4inch patch of bright red sores on his stomach (see Illustration #3). In addition to the sores, 2 weeks ago Moai began exhibiting cold like symptoms – i.e., clear mucus dripping from his nose, congestion, runny eyes and sneezing – and now he has a scabby sore on his nose (see Illustration #4). Lastly, but certainly not least, are Moai’s increasingly aggravating and uncharacteristic behavioral issues such as isolation, yowling, scratching the furniture, and poor urinary marksmanship – i.e. over the past month Moai has missed the litter box 5 times and peed on the wall behind the box instead!! The final straw occurred yesterday when your spouse [significant

other] attempted to pet the cat, which in turn bit their hand. Though the bite was not serious – barely breaking the skin – you felt it was high time Moai saw a veterinarian, but disgruntled by your former vet’s inability to uncover the cause of Moai’s chronic discomfort you reached for the yellow pages determined to seek a second opinion someplace new.

Character Objective: To discover the cause(s) of Moai’s various ailments, in particular his seemingly incurable itchiness, and devise a more permanent treatment plan.

Image(s) of the patient/herd/farm:



Illustration #1: Moai. When he’s not acting itchy and/or acting out Moai is a wonderful and cherished member of the family.



Illustration #2: Moai (left) and his late sister Easter (right) at adoption at 3 months of age. Until 3 months ago the inseparable dynamic duo.



Illustration #3: A 4-inch patch of bright red sores on Moai’s belly.



Illustration #4: Moai’s scabby nose.