



Feline Focus

time. The accompanying text was relatively concise but useful and reflected clearly the authors' extensive experience. I was a first year resident then and remember using the book to review the radiographic signs of common conditions as well as some of the sexier conditions that I was naively expecting to encounter, such as rheumatoid arthritis. This was particularly pertinent because our teaching file in those days contained only equine radiographs.

The second edition was considerably enlarged by the addition of ultrasound images and more text. Like the radiographs, the ultrasound images were mainly good quality and many were presented in groups of four, which was useful because it helped the reader to identify their common features. An index of figures was provided to aid browsing. It is my impression that the second edition was very popular and established the book as a standard text.

For the third edition, the stated aims of the book remain largely the same, and the majority of radiographs are those used in the first edition, but another 200 figures (mostly ultrasound images) have been added and the text has again been expanded. For me, this is where the book runs into difficulties because the expansion of the text goes well beyond that necessary 'to supplement the pictorial information'. Despite the aim of covering 'most of the common conditions', a wide range of conditions is now included and there are a few rare examples, such as a spinal arteriovenous fistula and ultrasound images of a brain abscess. In the third edition a staggering 2710 references are cited, which is presumably in an attempt to make the book comprehensive and up to date, but the information provided by these references is not always weighed—it is simply presented with no indication of its value. Much of the text reads like a long list. There are examples of figures separated from the relevant text by 15 pages or more. There are many instances of protracted descriptions where a simple diagram would have got the point across more efficiently.

It would be harsh to criticise a new medical book purely because it is large when medical knowledge is growing at such a rate but, on the other hand, do we really need increasingly large compilations? Don't we have a greater need for a guide to what matters most? In the case of this new edition, large equals unwieldy. The duplication of several references suggests that the authors found it unwieldy too. The book would benefit from editing to restore its emphasis and it would be enlivened by the authors expressing more opinion. As it is, the only noticeable individuality comes in their choice of terms: radiographic density, anterior, forelimb, cardiac waist and 'lay-down heart' all make appearances here, although they are usually edited out of journal articles. Surprisingly, a few errors have persisted from the first edition, such as the statement that fat and cartilage have the same opacity. (For the record, the Hounsfield number of fat is in the range -50 to -120 whereas that of cartilage is usually in the range 100 to 150, hence cartilage is more opaque than fat in conventional radiographs.)

This book has grown beyond its original aims into a much more comprehensive treatment of this subject, but it still contains good material and is an attractive purchase

if you are looking for a compilation of radiographs and ultrasound images and reasonably current supporting information in one volume. Just be prepared for it to be a big one.

Christopher R. Lamb

Handbook of Behavior Problems of the Dog and Cat, Second Edition

Gary Landsberg, Wayne Hunthausen, Lowell Ackerman. Saunders. List Price: \$69.95 (If you are a VIN member, \$62.96 in the VIN bookstore!)

The three authors are in clinical practice and have succeeded in writing a very readable text that gives equal time to cats! There are three chapters devoted exclusively to cats on aggression, destructive behaviors, and house soiling. There are excellent chapters on the complimentary medicine approach to behavior, the effects of diet on behavior, explanations of behavioral modification techniques and pharmacological intervention and a discussion of the European approach to behavior counseling. And there is a CD with all the charts from the text including questionnaires and handouts and a printable drug formulary for treating behavior problems.

Did you know the following?

- It has been reported that dominance-related aggression is more likely to be seen in females from predominantly male litters.
- The most receptive time for socializing kittens to people is up to seven weeks of age.
- In many species, aggressive behavior is inversely correlated with the level of serotonin in the brain, but vasopressin appears to have the opposite effect and makes animals more aggressive.
- About 10% of spayed female cats and 5% of castrated male cats will mark territory with urine.
- Queens with good maternal behavior produce offspring with better digestion, better resistance to disease and better weight gain.
- Approximately 15% of cats seem resistant to socialization with humans.

Why should this book interest you? More dogs and cats are euthanized for behavioral reasons than for all medical causes combined. Although many veterinarians routinely counsel owners, a comprehensive and standardized approach is sorely needed. By saving the cat's life and improving the bond between owner and pet, the owner's commitment to, and level of pet care, should be greatly enhanced. In one study, behavior problems were the third most common reason for shelter surrender in cats after moving and owner allergies. In a recent Canadian study it was estimated that 11.5% of cats euthanized at veterinary clinics were for behavioral reasons and a similar US study indicated that 10–15% of euthanasias were for behavioral reasons. All veterinarians should be performing some behavioral services or they are truly not providing complete client care.

Sarah Stevens