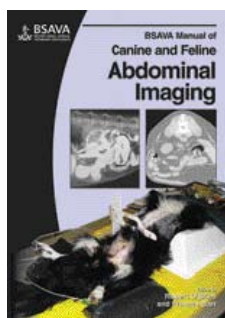


Books

Abdominal imaging in dogs and cats

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Abdominal Imaging



Robert O'Brien and Frances Barr

250 pages, paperback, £75.

BSAVA, 2009.

Distributed by Wiley-Blackwell; available to BSAVA members from www.bsava.com
ISBN 978 1 905319 10 7

COMING from the pedigree stable of the BSAVA, the manual of canine and feline abdominal imaging follows a series of excellent textbooks. One expects a straightforward and clear overview of the selected topic, and that is exactly what this book delivers.

Following the format of BSAVA manuals, the book is divided into multiple chapters, each one giving a brief yet relatively comprehensive description of the normal and abnormal appearance of an abdominal organ/structure or space, including radiography, ultrasonography and, to a lesser extent, CT and MRI. The manual also provides a basic grounding in the physics of radiographic and ultrasonographic techniques.

In most instances it gets the balance right, with the exception of the abdominal blood vessels, which would have benefited from a more detailed ultrasonographic description, as these vessels provides an anatomical road map for finding abdominal organs during an examination.

The main difficulty in producing a book about abdominal imaging is the inherently low contrast of the soft tissue structures. Reproducing the radiographs clearly in print is always a challenge, and the quality of the radiographs in the manual is variable. Some of the traditional analogue radiographs are not sharp, and it is only with the help of arrows that lesions can be identified. To paraphrase aspects of the opening chapter, optimal viewing conditions are required when reviewing abdominal x-rays. However, reproduction of some of the conventional images has resulted in substandard pictures; for example, Figure 2 appears to have had the wet coat artefact removed. In comparison, the x-rays taken using digital radiography give a much better

contrast range of the abdominal structures. The post-processing ability of digital radiography allows clear, sharp definition that markedly improves the ability to easily differentiate between the abdominal structures. This disparity in image quality is highlighted on page 162 with juxtaposed images of pancreatitis. Figure 13.11 shows a clear sharp definition of the abdominal structures and lesions, while Figure 13.12 shows ill-defined, poorly differentiated

abdominal structures throughout the entire abdomen.

In conclusion, the 'BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Abdominal Imaging' is an excellent, concise guide to imaging the abdomen, but it would benefit significantly from the use of quality digital images.

Cliona Skelly

doi: 10.1136/vr.c5039

3D insight into equine parturition

Foal in Mare. Insights inside the foaling mare

Jan Govaere, Katrien Martens and Aart de Kruif

DVD, €60. 2009.

Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, University of Ghent.
ISBN 978 905864 209 7



WHAT would you do if you had the formula that allowed you to please all of the people all of the time? Retire happy perhaps! But, alas, we all know that someone discovering the secret is as likely as England getting to a World Cup final.

Despite this truism, Jan Govaere and the rest of the clever folk at the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health at Ghent university (in cooperation with Utrecht university, Ohio State University and the University of Nantes) have produced an educational DVD that is aimed at 'students, vets, teachers, biologists, breeders and horse owners'.

By using some of the best 3D animations I have seen, this DVD shows exactly what happens and what can go wrong during equine pregnancy and parturition. As if that wasn't enough, a 41-page PDF of the narrative is included. The movie and narrative text are translated into French, German, Spanish and Italian, with just the text also translated into Dutch, Japanese, Portuguese and Arabic. So, Dr Govaere and colleagues are certainly covering their bases.

The 60 minutes of movies are well illustrated, clearly narrated and are divided into six main sections: fetal development, the three stages of labour, dystocia, and miscellaneous. The quality of the animation

is top-notch, and there are two 'live action' movies that help to show how things look in the real world.

But is it all good news? Well, not entirely. As good as the menu system is, navigation is inconsistent between sections, with some sections having a large number of submenus compared with others which have none. A small criticism I know, but it can make it hard to find the particular movie you are looking for. There are also a couple of holes in the information. For example, despite describing bladder inversion, rectal prolapse and uterine torsion, there is no information regarding premature placental separation and its management. The movie on caesarean section goes into detail about suture patterns and so on, but does not describe postsurgical management in any way. Indeed, despite describing how to correct a malpresentation, there is no information regarding precisely how to prepare the mare before repelling a fetus.

So, does this DVD do what it says on the tin? Should you buy a copy? The answer depends on who you are. Bearing in mind that this DVD cannot take the place of a good textbook, some sections are probably going to be too basic for vets and too technical for lay people. Overall, though, it is a must-have for vet students around the world, regardless of language.

Matt Hanks

doi: 10.1136/vr.c5040

Books received

Cat Owner's Veterinary Handbook

John Bower

224 pages, hardback, £19.95.

Crowood Press. 2009.

ISBN 9781847971289