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# *The Cat*

CLINICAL MEDICINE and MANAGEMENT



*Susan E. Little*



SECOND EDITION

# *The Cat*

CLINICAL MEDICINE and MANAGEMENT



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THE CAT: CLINICAL MEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT

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# Dedication

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This book is dedicated to three people who have been influential in my life and my career choice. First are my parents, Bernie Little (1935-2017) and Dolores (Eisan) Little (1934-2021). They taught me many things, such as hard work is necessary to achieve one's goals, and that one should be a kind and responsible person. Good principles to live by! The other is my maternal aunt, Joanne

Eisan (1937-2019). Aunt Joanne earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Biochemistry at a time when it wasn't a common path for women to take. I remember visiting her lab when I was a university student and being entranced by the projects she was working on. Aunt Joanne was my most important role model for a woman in science, and for that I will always be grateful.

# Preface

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*“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That’s the problem.”*

A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh.

When the first edition of this book was published in 2012, the idea that I would create a second edition was far from my mind as a novice textbook editor. But here we are, more than 10 years later. Although cats do not give up their secrets easily, fortunately we know more about feline medicine now than we did in 2012 and I am pleased to bring new information to this second edition.

In the preface to the first edition, I wrote that cats force us to be expert diagnosticians who must rely on clues in the medical history and physical examination. That is still true today. There is much to learn from listening to the owner and interacting with the patient. Your best diagnostic tools are your eyes, ears, and hands. Although there are more diagnostic tests available now than in 2012, we must remember that test results can only be interpreted considering what we learned from the owner and the patient. Despite advancements in feline medicine, we still have a way to go to achieve parity with the body of medical knowledge that exists for dogs. However, there is room for optimism because feline practice is now well established, and veterinarians and support team members know that ‘cats are not small dogs’ and that we must adjust to work with feline patients humanely. For all these reasons, the first three chapters in this book concentrate on what we can learn in the exam room: Understanding the Cat and Feline-Friendly Handling, The Cat-Friendly Practice, and Deciphering the Cat: The Medical History and Physical Examination.

In the first edition, I wrote that this book is practical and focuses on what most of us can do in general practice. I have kept to that philosophy in this second edition as I have always intended this book to be dog-eared and stained from use (or bookmarked in your web browser). Throughout the book, case discussions, check lists, algorithms, key points, and photos are used to illustrate conditions and techniques. A major change for this second edition is that the electronic version has expanded content for many of the chapters, such as videos, case discussions, photos, downloads, and more.

The second edition is organized in the same manner as the first edition (based on body systems) but it has had

some reorganization and new chapters. Here are a few of the updates. Chapter 6 (Assessment and Management of Pain) has a much-needed new section on chronic pain by Paulo Steagall and Beatriz Monteiro. Chapter 7 (Principles of Anesthesia) has a new section on special considerations in feline anesthesia by Sheilah Robertson that has invaluable information on how to reduce anesthesia risks in cats. Chapter 23 (Cardiovascular Diseases) has updated and expanded information on hypertension. Two new chapters have been added. Chapter 9 is on clinical pathology by Randolph Baral and Kathy Freeman and has useful information on interpretation of test results. I am especially delighted to have a brand-new chapter on emergency and critical care techniques (Chapter 10) by Kenneth Drobatz and Nicole Cilli. This chapter has step-by-step instructions with photos to help you perform common techniques, such as FAST scans, intraosseous fluids, urethral obstruction procedures, and much more.

There are many new authors in this edition: Kathy Freeman, Ken Drobatz, Nicole Cilli, Geri Lake-Bakaar, Beate Egner, Elizabeth Layne, Melanie Puchot, Panos Xenoulis, Andrea Harvey, Sam Taylor, Tina Wismer, John Kruger, Eric Zini, Marco Pesaresi, Natalie Finch, and Kelly St. Denis. I am indebted to all the authors for their willingness to help me create an updated and expanded second edition. I am especially thankful for the wise guidance of the section editors. Writing textbook chapters and serving as section editors is not a well remunerated task. However, it is fueled by a love of teaching and dedication to our profession. I am grateful for the generosity in sharing and the desire to pass on their knowledge shown by the more than 70 authors who made this book possible.

As the wise Winnie-the-Pooh noted, we benefit from learning to listen to cats. Having a textbook by your side is also useful! This book is a guide to working with cats and I hope it will enhance every veterinarian’s feline medicine skills, whether you are a new graduate or a mature practitioner.

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# Acknowledgments

I want to thank my support team at Elsevier — Jennifer Catando, Kristen Helm, Julie Taylor, and others — for their assistance and patience. During the time I worked on this edition, my home was badly damaged by a tornado, some beloved family members died, and there was that little thing called a pandemic. These events inevitably slowed our progress, but with everyone's help, we have created a book I am proud of.

*About the artist:*

The cover image was provided by Dr. Rosie Javinsky. This lovely cat is Marmalade (known to his friends as Marm) who was adopted from a shelter along with his buddy, Burt.

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