Prologue

Radiography still is the diagnostic imaging technique most frequently used in small animal clinical medicine. That is why those graduate and postgraduate students and professionals who wish to practice clinical medicine need a reference book to use as a guide to radiographic interpretation.

The first edition of this book fulfilled this purpose impeccably. Now, with the second edition, further information on radiographic positioning and anatomy is added to assist readers when taking and interpreting radiographs. Some of the content of the chapters has been updated and new or updated high-quality images and videos have been added. The number of images (about 1000) represents and conveys the author's extensive professional experience and they encompass the most prominent diseases so that veterinary students and clinicians may become familiar with the most important and most common radiographic signs. In addition, some images are accompanied by diagrams that illustrate the position of the organs, as well as by images obtained with other diagnostic imaging techniques such as ultrasonography, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. It also includes complementary material which can be accessed on the Internet, as well as a section with self-assessment case studies.

I would like to congratulate the author for this atlas which is sure to prove invaluable to veterinary students and clinicians.

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Preface

In these times when veterinarians have access to advanced diagnostic imaging techniques (such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging), the enormous value that radiography still has as an essential diagnostic tool in small animal clinical medicine is sometimes underestimated.

In my years of experience as a lecturer in the field of Diagnostic Imaging (29 years this year, in 2022), I have noted a general tendency among small animal clinical veterinarians to try to advance their training in the use of other techniques, such as ultrasound or even computed tomography, assuming that a very basic knowledge of radiology is sufficient for the correct development of their professional activity. My greatest satisfaction when teaching continuing education courses for professionals is helping them understand that radiology can provide them with "way more" than what they expect from it *a priori*. The more they learn, the more they grasp both the complexity and the usefulness of learning to correctly interpret the radiograms they see every day in their clinics. This book also aims to convey this idea to you, confident that it will be of benefit to you in your daily diagnostic tasks.

A section on the basic principles of radiological interpretation was not included in the first edition but which I now consider essential for this second edition. Readers must understand how a radiograph is obtained and on what principles the creation of the image is based before they can evaluate it. Reviewing these principles in a straightforward manner will, I believe, help lay more solid foundations for a good diagnostic interpretation.

Another improvement in this second edition is that the Atlas of Radiographic Anatomy of the Dog is included (this was available with the previous edition on the publisher's website) within the book and is complemented by an atlas of radiographic positioning. On each page of this section in Chapter 1, there is an image of the patient's positioning and the normal X-ray image, together with clear identification of the most relevant anatomical structures. These images can be easily and rapidly consulted directly in the book or may also be consulted on the online version of the Atlas of Radiographic Anatomy, available via a password included in each copy of the book.

QR codes are available with this second edition that allow access to the Atlas of Radiographic Anatomy of the Dog on the publisher's website and to self-assessments at the end of each chapter, except Chapter 1. Another change introduced with this edition is how the self-assessments can be conducted. Initially the reader has access only to the patient's clinical data and images with the first QR code. Then with a second code, access is given to a video explanation of the radiographic findings and the final diagnosis. We have also added material on videofluoroscopy and dynamic digital radiographic imaging throughout the text. This can also be accessed via QR codes.

Finally, an enormous thanks to my publisher for agreeing to let me expand the number of images per chapter. Most of these were obtained with the latest direct digital radiology equipment and will, undoubtedly, be much appreciated by readers familiar with the first edition.

I sincerely hope that the efforts that went into updating and expanding the first edition will meet the expectations of all readers who purchase this book. My intention was to improve the book to the best of my ability and to help veterinarians and veterinary students learn more about this discipline that I am so passionate about.

María Isabel García Real
February 2022