

Atlas of
FELINE
SURGICAL
Techniques

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Atlas of Feline Surgical Techniques

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Llibertat Real Sampietro

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Preface

You have in your hands one of the few books published to date specifically dedicated to feline surgery.

Some of the authors have been collaborating for several years with the publishing house Grupo Asís Biomedia, especially on works where image played a central role. Even more time, in my case, has been dedicated to feline medicine and surgery. When I was preparing for a surgical procedure, I always found it difficult to understand the anatomical structures and steps in each stage of the procedure. The few books published on feline anatomy did not illustrate the details well either. Only scientific articles had drawings, which were not always good quality but were helpful for understanding. In our experience, to understand a surgical procedure step-by-step, a good illustration is better than a photograph, since the anatomical structures are more clearly differentiated, in addition to being able to highlight, mark, color and even animate the areas that are key to the treatment in each case. And this publisher has great illustrators who are also veterinarians! As they say nowadays, a win-win situation.

Each of the authors of this book have been dedicated to feline medicine and surgery for over 20 years. It is probably the fastest growing veterinary clinical specialty of the last three decades. Cats have entered our lives and our practices with force and are here to stay. This means that works dedicated especially to them have a priori significant popularity.

When we proposed this work, we intended it to be a practical book, useful both for students and surgeons who need to delve deeper into the feline specialty. It was never our aim to write a long and deep treatise on surgery; we do not consider ourselves capable of this, nor would our daily occupations have allowed us to do so. Rather, we prefer to cover interventions for exclusively feline pathologies or, at least, the most frequent ones presented in our hospitals and clinics.

We have tried to give the book a very practical approach. All the things you will read are interventions that we perform in our usual work. The photos and videos are also original (or borrowed from colleagues who are specialists in each case). We preferred a work that was more limited, but that could give you an idea of the problems you may encounter in each intervention and how to resolve them if you want to dedicate yourself to feline surgery.

We have to thank many people around us for their help.

First of all, to all the guardians of our patients and to the cats themselves. They are the very reason for our work. Their patience and trust help not only in their treatment, but also in building the experience from which you can now benefit.

Secondly, to our families, who understand that sometimes the time we steal away from them is invested in beneficial healthcare work.

We also thank our colleagues for their help: those who taught and trained us; those who have shared and discussed their cases with us in lectures and congresses, referring their patients to us. You are all a continual incentive for our work. Of course, we are also grateful for the help of junior veterinarians (who, because of our age, already constitute a very large population...); they are another reason for our existence. With their curiosity and desire to learn, they allow scientific knowledge to continue to be passed on over the years.

And finally, to all the professionals at Grupo Asís Biomedica: Ana Hernández, the first one who believed in the project; Tatiana Blasco, the person who built the solid framework for the book by advising, correcting and structuring each chapter; the illustrators, Jacob Gragera and David Martín, who have successfully captured the ideas, details and corrections to translate them into illustrations that give quality and level to the book and attempt to explain each surgical technique better than many photos.

And the secret is that among this whole chain of important people who have shaped the atlas we present to you most are veterinarians. A profession that, rare in the 21st century, still allows us to cover wide and varied areas of knowledge, all of which are also exciting.

Make a lot of use of the book! If in a few years the atlas has a worn spine, a few loose pages and notes, it will mean that our work and yours has been worthwhile.

Alberto Barneto

Madrid, summer of 2022

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