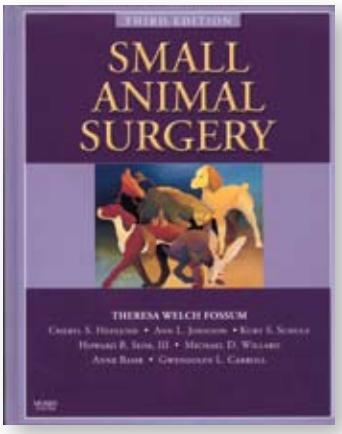
Reading Room



Despite its size and scope, meticulous organization provides ready access to the desired material.

Title: *Small Animal Surgery*, 3rd ed.

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THIS MAMMOTH WORK has been changed substantially from its second edition, which was published just 5 years previously. Both the material and the format have been updated, and a companion "e-dition" is now available. However, as in the previous editions, the number of contributors has been carefully limited, and the format for text and art remains consistent throughout.

The book contains 41 chapters, divided into four sections. The first part concerns general surgical principles and targets general practitioners and students. Topics include sterile technique, surgical instruments, preoperative and postoperative care, rational antibiotic use, analgesia, and physical rehabilitation. The remaining three sections cover soft tissue surgery (i.e., specific organs and systems), orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery. In each case, a general discussion is followed by chapters on specific conditions. Various techniques are described for performing the same procedure when applicable. The basic chapter structure proceeds from general discussion (e.g., definitions, surgical anatomy, antibiotics/analgesics, surgical procedure) to specific diseases (e.g., diagnosis, medical management, surgical treatment and techniques, complications). Many new procedures have been added, and more advanced surgery is described, even though general practitioners will probably refer such cases; more complex operations are appropriately marked. Overall, descriptions of anatomy, conditions, and procedures apply to all small animals, with differences between species noted as needed.

Important features in the book are highlighted with "note" boxes in each chapter, and all boxes and tables are color-coded. In addition, there are icons for text on general material, disease classification, etiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, general treatment, analgesia, anesthesia/sedation, antibiotics, calculations, complications, and key points. There are more than 2100 high-quality illustrations, 75% of which are in color.

The e-dition contains the complete contents of the printed book, plus weekly updates and extra topics, such as less commonly performed procedures. The Web site is fully searchable. There are also tools for note-taking, saving searches, and viewing and saving images in a PowerPoint format. Furthermore, the viewer can watch video clips and surgical simulations. The e-dition is available as a stand-alone product.

This volume is truly impressive. Despite its massive size and scope, meticulous organization and an abundance of visual cues provide ready access to the desired material and rapid scanning of relevant points. It will undoubtedly serve as an invaluable resource for a fresh look at the most common procedures and a gateway to new and less common techniques. C

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