Manual of Clinical Procedures in Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, & Rodents, THIRD EDITION

Manual of Clinical Procedures in Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, & Rodents, Third Edition offers readers expanded coverage of small exotic mammals, such as gerbils, hamsters, and guinea pigs, alongside a thorough revision of frequently used procedures for dogs, cats, and rabbits. Using the same accessible format of earlier editions, the third edition maintains its status as a classic veterinary clinical manual.

The Manual covers practical, up-to-date information on common veterinary procedures. The text includes details on restraint and positioning, anesthesia, surgical technique, and medical management. The essential knowledge for each section is presented clearly and concisely: purposes of the procedure, possible complications, equipment needed, and preparations.

Procedures new to this edition include blood transfusions, placement of intraosseous catheters, and tracheostomy. Detailed line drawings demonstrate not only pertinent anatomical relationships, but also operational motions.

Manual of Clinical Procedures in Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, & Rodents serves as a valuable reference and is an essential purchase for small and exotic animal veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

KEY FEATURES:
• Exhaustive revision of classic veterinary clinical manual
• Up-to-date clinical procedures
• Expanded coverage of rodents, including gerbils, hamsters, and guinea pigs

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Manual of
CLINICAL PROCEDURES
IN DOGS, CATS, RABBITS,
AND RODENTS

Third Edition
DEDICATIONS

Since the publication of the second edition in 1997, written in 1996, I have mourned the loss of four men, each of whom meant a great deal to me both personally and professionally. I am honored to have known and shared many wonderful life experiences with each of them. I think of them often and always fondly. With love and great respect, I dedicate this edition to them.

Matthew Steven Crow, beloved son and teacher
Lover of sports, rock, and outstanding women! A courageous, inspirational, persistent, compassionate, and intelligent young man. He built a Field of Dreams. Special doesn’t come close to covering it. We lost an important citizen much, much too early.

Donald Low, DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Sage advisor, boss, mentor, role model, joke teller extraordinaire, fellow beignet lover, and instigator of the first edition of the Manual.

Mark Bloomberg, DVM, MS, DACVS
Brian Hill, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Friends across the miles, valued colleagues, exemplary teachers for veterinary students and residents, lovers of life and basketball, confidantes. Both gone way too early!

Gentlemen, thanks for sharing your lives with me. You are greatly missed!

SC

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JB
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The *Manual of Clinical Procedures in Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, and Rodents* is intended as a textbook for veterinary technology and veterinary medical students, as well as a useful clinical tool for veterinarians and veterinary technicians in small animal practice or laboratory animal care facilities. As in the first two editions, the text is organized by procedure, with each technique described in detail using a step-by-step approach. The *Manual* may be used as a clinical handbook in addition to being a teaching instrument. Features that make this manual most useful are the rationale/amplification segments, which answer the reader’s how and why questions, and the illustrations, which show exactly how to physically manage the patient, equipment, and assistants. Many new drawings have been added as well as photographs of equipment and materials used in the procedures.

As in previous editions, the scope of the *Manual* has been deliberately limited to procedures that can be completed in most modern veterinary facilities and that require only modest surgical skills. In most techniques, no expensive or complicated equipment is required; thus, they can be cost-effective even in small practices. As veterinary practice becomes more sophisticated in the 21st century, most progressive small animal practices have added valuable diagnostic and therapeutic tools: sonography, digital radiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, point-of-care hematology and chemistry analyzers, laparoscopy, and video-endoscopy. These valuable clinical tools help us to do our job better every day and can be excellent adjuncts for completing many of the procedures described in this manual. Fiber-optic otoscopes have greatly improved visualization of the ear canal, tympanum, and ossicles. Cystocentesis is now most often done with ultrasound guidance. Blind biopsy techniques described in the first two editions of the *Manual* have been replaced by ultrasound-guided needle biopsy or laparoscopic biopsy techniques, allowing the clinician to provide larger, more conclusive biopsy specimens for pathologists. Although the *Manual* does not demonstrate those technology-enhanced procedures, we heartily support using the most advanced methods available.

The four chapters in our new Section III describe important techniques that are particularly of value in emergency clinics and intensive care facilities: proper technique to prepare for and administer transfusions; placement of intraosseous catheters,
a technique especially valuable in puppies, kittens, and other neonates; and detailed instructions on the placement and management of multilumen catheters.

The safety of personnel and patients in the veterinary workplace continues to be a high priority for employers, employees, and the general public. Chapter 1, Restraint of Dogs and Cats, is as timely today as in the first two editions. Today, many entering veterinary students have very little practical experience in holding and working with animals in a clinical or laboratory setting. Chapters 35 through 37 focus on safe and effective methods of restraint of rabbits and other small mammals. Adequate restraint of animals by trained employees is vital in providing humane care for these small animals. In addition, knowing how to handle animals is essential for the safety of veterinary health care team members and animal owners. Throughout the Manual we describe proper disposal of medical waste. Careful use and disposal of sharp items is encouraged. It is our hope that proper knowledge of the clinical procedures in the Manual will enhance workplace safety as well as contribute to animal health.

We recommend that the reader use the Manual in the following ways:

• When first learning a procedure, the entire chapter or segment should be studied, including purposes, indications, contraindications, possible complications, equipment needed, restraint and positioning, and preparations. This background is essential if proper application of each procedure is to be achieved.
• Careful attention to comments in the rationale/amplification sections will help the operator avoid common errors of omission or commission.
• For subsequent cases, the reader may use the technical action guidelines in a cookbook fashion; however, periodic review of other sections of the procedure/description is recommended.
• Careful attention should be paid to Notes that appear in italics throughout the Manual.
• To ensure proper positioning of needles, catheters, and hands, the reader must attempt to duplicate the orientation shown in the line drawings.

If these guidelines are followed, we are confident that the user of the Manual can become proficient in a wide variety of diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.

While we try to instruct our readers in the “how to” of clinical procedures, we hope our equally important message of “whether to” also is understood by the reader. As animal advocates, we have carefully scrutinized each of the procedures with respect to the degree or risk of pain and injury versus expected benefits. No animal was injured in the production of this manual. We implore our readers to respect the feelings of animals (and their owners) and the contributions of animals in all aspects of their professional activities.

Steven E. Crow, DVM
Sally O. Walshaw, MA, VMD
Jennifer E. Boyle, RVT, VTS

*Primum non nocere (first of all do no harm)*

HIPPOCRATES

This is like déjà vu all over again.

YOGI BERRA
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