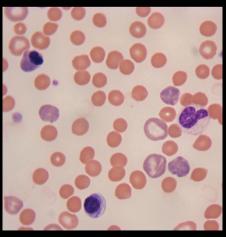
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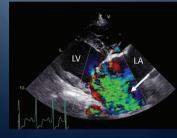
Victoria L. Black · Kathryn F. Murphy Jessie Rose Payne · Edward J. Hall





FOURTH EDITION









NOTES ON CANINE INTERNAL MEDICINE

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Fourth Edition

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We all recognise the patience and support of our respective families during the production of this book. However, individually we wish to dedicate it specifically to:

All the vets and vet students I have met with a curious approach to our patients – your enthusiasm continues to inspire and motivate.

Victoria L. Black

Those who inspired me to know more as a student and resident (particularly Ed!) and my colleagues, clients and patients who continue to encourage me to learn more.

Kathryn F. Murphy

My patients, who make each day different from the last and continue to inspire me to learn every day.

Jessie Rose Payne

All the Medicine Residents and colleagues (particularly Kate and Vicki!) I have worked with, who have pushed me to learn more.

Edward J. Hall

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PREFACE

"When you hear hoofbeats, look for horses — not zebras."*

In 1983, in the first edition of Notes on Canine Internal Medicine, Peter Darke provided a revolutionary new and simplified diagnostic approach to internal medicine problem solving. It was not long before his book was to be found in the pocket of every veterinary undergraduate in the UK, as well as being an important first source of information for practitioners. The second and third editions built on this success. However, it is now nearly 20 years since the third and last edition and, in that time, our knowledge of canine internal medicine and our ability to investigate and treat cases has grown almost exponentially. Standard internal medicine texts now often fill two large volumes, detailing the underlying pathophysiology that is essential to understand diseases fully. However, there remains a need for a concise text to aid students and busy practitioners.

Whilst we acknowledge the importance of pathophysiology in internal medicine, in first opinion practice knowing the three most likely differential diagnoses for a problem is of more use than knowing ten obscure and unlikely ones despite potentially similar pathophysiological mechanisms. Thus, in this book, we have provided separate lists of the 'common causes' of medical problems, and the 'uncommon causes'. Our personal experiences and geographical location inevitably bias our opinions on what are the most common causes of any specific problem but please note that these two lists are in alphabetical order and not order of prevalence. We are also not indicating the relative incidence of specific problems seen in first opinion practice, although practitioners will already know that dermatological and GI problems are most common. Our opinions on what are the best approaches to a specific problem are based on the scientific evidence, where it is available, and on our personal experience.

This edition follows a similar pattern to the third edition, with sections on presenting complaints, physical findings, and laboratory abnormalities. We have added a new section on imaging patterns, and again finish with a section covering diseases of the major organ systems. The authorship has been expanded to ensure we have the expertise to cover all areas of internal medicine, including Peter Darke's own discipline of cardiology. We have also included information on behavioural, dermatological and ophthalmological problems focused on where these are manifestations of systemic disease. We do not believe in a totally algorithmic approach as used in some texts and have highlighted key clinical clues which, when using the results of history-taking, physical examination, laboratory tests and imaging findings, should guide the clinician's investigation in the right direction and avoid unnecessary testing.

As noted in the first edition, the recognition that not everything in internal medicine is black and white is part of its challenge; and not every patient 'reads the textbook'. We still believe in the advice of the first edition that 'basic, careful history-taking and thorough and, if necessary, repeated clinical examination are fundamental procedures that may yield a diagnosis in a complicated or unresolved case'. One should always remember that there is always one more question to be asked, or one more investigation to be performed on problem cases, and one should never be afraid to go back to the beginning and start again.

V.L.B, K.F.M., J.R.P. and E.J.H. 2022

^{*} Source uncertain; https://quoteinvestigator.com/2017/11/26/zebras/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The initial inspiration for this book was Peter Darke's and we are honoured to write this new edition. The book retains its original title to emphasise its aim to be easily accessible notes for the veterinary practitioner and student to assist their diagnostic investigations of medically ill dogs.

USING THIS BOOK

SECTION 1

Presenting complaints

- In this section, the common presenting complaints are listed alphabetically according to a stylised format.
- Each problem is defined, and the expected clinical signs listed although not every case will show every sign.
- Causes for the problem are divided into 'common' and 'uncommon' to guide the reader, but are only the opinion of the authors, and may vary in different geographical locations.
- For each problem a logical diagnostic approach is suggested; any numbering indicates a suggested order for the investigations:
 - Clinical clues in the history.
 - Potential findings in the clinical examination.
 - Laboratory findings that aid the diagnosis.
 - Key results from imaging.
 - Special tests that may confirm the diagnosis.

SECTION 2

Physical problems

In this section, significant findings from the physical examination are listed alphabetically.

- Each problem is defined.
- Common and uncommon causes, listed alphabetically, are suggested for each problem.
- Related clinical signs are listed.
- For each problem a logical diagnostic approach is suggested.
- Key findings to look for in the history and physical examination are noted; not all will be present in every case.
- Laboratory findings that aid the diagnosis are noted.
- Key results of imaging are noted.
- Special tests that may confirm the diagnosis are listed.

SECTION 3

Laboratory abnormalities

In this section laboratory abnormalities of haematology, serum biochemistry and urinalysis are listed alphabetically.

- The abnormality is defined.
- Causes are listed alphabetically, and the likely degree of severity is suggested.
- The diagnostic interpretation for the abnormality is given.
- Adjunctive tests that may help support or confirm the diagnosis are given.

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SECTION 4

Imaging patterns

Differential diagnoses for specific plain radiographic and ultrasonographic patterns and appearances are listed. Relevant further imaging modalities (contrast radiography, cross-sectional imaging, i.e. CT and MRI) are suggested.

SECTION 5

Organ systems

The relevant clinical presentations and physical, laboratory and imaging abnormalities (identified in Sections 1–4, respectively) are given for each major internal organ system. Then the diagnostic approach and the methods of investigation of each organ system are briefly explained. Finally, the more common diseases of each system are covered alphabetically. For each, its aetiology, predisposition, historical clues, clinical signs, laboratory test results, treatment and monitoring, sequelae and prognosis are given in note form.

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

Commonly used scientific and medical abbreviations listed here are used throughout the book without further expansion. All other abbreviations are spelled out in each section, and are listed at the end of the book with the Index.

ACTH adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ALP (SAP) (serum) alkaline phosphatase
ALT alanine aminotransferase
BID twice daily (q12h)
CBC complete blood count
ECG electrocardiogram

EDTA ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid ELISA enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

HCT haematocrit
IgA immunoglobulin A
IM intramuscular
IV intravenous

NPO *nil per os* (nothing by mouth)

NSAID non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

PCR polymerase chain reaction PCV packed cell volume

PO per os

QID four times daily (q6h)

q.v. quod vide (see related material)

RBC red blood cell
SC subcutaneous
SID once daily (q24h)

T4 thyroxine

TID three times daily (q8h) WBC white blood cell

SECTION 1

PRESENTING COMPLAINTS

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1.1 ABORTION

DEFINITION

The spontaneous expulsion of one or more fetuses before the end of full-term pregnancy, i.e. when the fetus is incapable of independent life.

RELATED CLINICAL SIGNS

- Abdominal pain
- Abnormal vulval discharge
- Fever
- Lethargy/depression
- Premature whelping is reported with live or dead pups or no live pups at term

COMMON CAUSES

Infectious

- Bacterial
 - Brucella canis in endemic countries; not endemic in UK
 - Streptococcus infection
- Viral: Canine herpesvirus-1 (CHV-1)

Non-infectious

- Congenital defects: various lethal defects
- · Genetic causes: various lethal defects
- Maternal factors:
 - Illness
 - Diabetes mellitus (DM)
 - Eclampsia
 - Pregnancy toxaemia
 - Drugs
 - Corticosteroids
 - Griseofulvin
 - Itraconazole
 - Phenylephrine
 - Prolactin inhibitors
 - Prostaglandins
 - Progesterone-receptor blockers
 - Toxins: insecticides, plant toxins

- Trauma
- Hypoluteinization (low progesterone)
- · Advanced age
- Traumatic: dystocia

UNCOMMON CAUSES

Infectious

- Bacterial
 - Escherichia coli
 - Campylobacter
 - Leptospira
 - Salmonella
- Fungal
- Protozoal
 - Leishmania
 - Neospora
 - Toxoplasma
- Viral
 - Bluetongue virus
 - Canine adenovirus 1
 - Canine distemper virus
 - Canine parvovirus 1 (minute virus)

DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH

Clinical clues

Predisposition

- Advanced age
- Previous history of abortion
 - Assess for hypoluteinization by checking progesterone concentrations

History

- Abnormal vulval discharge
- Bitch whelps early with live or dead pups or no pups at term

Clinical examination

Visual inspection

• Often unremarkable

Notes on Canine Internal Medicine, Fourth Edition. Victoria L. Black, Kathryn F. Murphy, Jessie Rose Payne, and Edward J. Hall.

Physical examination

- Abdominal contractions and expulsion of fetus(es) in later pregnancy
- Vulval discharge: purulent, haemorrhagic, green, black, malodorous

Laboratory findings

Haematology

- May be normal
- HCT often low in pregnancy due to decreased plasma volume,
 - e.g. 30-35% compared to 45-55%
- Mild mature neutrophilia common in pregnancy, may sometimes be more pronounced changes or bands

Serum biochemistry

• May be normal

Urinalysis

 May show evidence of inflammation with free catch or catheter samples

Imaging

Plain radiographs

• May show evidence of dystocia

Ultrasound

• May show evidence of fetal death

Special tests

- Examination of fetus post mortem
- Virus isolation/bacterial culture/PCR of fetus/ placenta/vaginal secretions/milk

Tests of dam

- Serology ± PCR of dam for CHV-1, B. canis
- Serum progesterone to assess if sufficient to maintain pregnancy: should be > 2 ng/ml (6 nmol/l); if less than these values for > 48 hours suggests hypoluteinization but can be seen due to fetal death
- Thyroid hormone analysis: total T4/thyroidstimulating hormone (TSH)

1.2 ALOPECIA

DEFINITION

Absence of hair from areas of skin that normally carry hairs, due either to a failure of production or to an increased loss of hair. Hypotrichosis refers to thinning of hair. Hair loss may be focal or diffuse, and symmetrical or non-symmetrical.

RELATED CLINICAL SIGNS

- Endocrinopathies are likely to cause concurrent systemic signs such as changes in drinking, eating, exercise tolerance and body weight
- Loss or absence of hair
- Self-traumatic lesions if pruritic skin disease

1

COMMON CAUSES

Primary follicular disease

Inherited abnormalities of follicular structure, ranging from absence of follicles that normally

produce hair of a particular colour to complete absence of follicles, are uncommon except in specific breeds.

Secondary follicular disease

- Bacterial folliculitis/superficial pyoderma
- Demodectic mange
- Hyperadrenocorticism (HAC)
 - Iatrogenic
 - Pituitary- or adrenal-dependent
- Hypothyroidism
- Interdigital pyoderma
- Malassezia infection
- Seasonal flank alopecia (cyclic follicular dysplasia)

Self-trauma when pruritic

- Atopy
- Fleas and flea-allergic dermatitis
- Pyotraumatic dermatitis ('hot spot')
- Sarcoptic mange
- Secondary bacterial pyoderma