

# Endoscopy for the veterinary technician

EDITED BY

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# Contents

- List of contributors, vii
- Introduction, ix
- 1** Endoscopy equipment, 1  
*Valerie Walker*
- 2** Endoscope care and cleaning, 15  
*Valerie Walker*
- 3** Anesthesia considerations for the endoscopy patient, 33  
*Jody Nugent-Deal*
- 4** Upper gastrointestinal tract endoscopy, 63  
*Susan Cox*
- 5** Lower gastrointestinal tract endoscopy, 83  
*Susan Cox*
- 6** Upper airway endoscopy, 95  
*Susan Cox*
- 7** Lower airway endoscopy, 107  
*Susan Cox*
- 8** Urogenital endoscopy, 121  
*Susan Cox*
- 9** Laparoscopy and thoracoscopy, 137  
*Katie Douthitt*
- 10** Arthroscopy, 179  
*Susan Cox*
- 11** The ultimate endoscopy suite, 199  
*Susan Cox*
- Index, 211

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# Introduction

My first exposure to veterinary endoscopy began with biopsy sampling only. I was not allowed to clean or even handle the endoscope – the busy internist insisted on performing these tasks between other procedures and appointments. This arrangement was not a very effective use of the technical staff, or benefited his busy schedule. Additionally, many technicians I have encountered are responsible for their clinic's endoscopes, with no idea of how to care for them properly. So my goal in writing this book was to give the endoscopy assistant the skills and knowledge to perform all facets of endoscope care and handling – before, during and after the procedure.

Many clinics are incorporating endoscopy into their hospitals as a minimally invasive medical instrument that can provide diagnostic and therapeutic options for treatment. Whether used in fluoroscopy, in the surgical suite, or in the treatment area, technical staff that are proficient in all aspects of endoscopy are invaluable.

Veterinary endoscopy textbooks are geared for the veterinary endoscopist and have little information regarding proper cleaning, disinfection, and instrumentation. These topics are fully covered here in Chapters 1 and 2, with tables that can be easily referenced during the cleaning process. Chapter 3 discusses the anesthetic challenges that patients undergoing endoscopic procedures can demonstrate, and how to address them. The next seven chapters provide a framework for preparation of the patient and procedure, specific instrumentation that will be needed, a navigational guide through a typical procedure, biopsy sampling and post-procedure patient care. The last chapter reviews the endoscopy suite, including equipment placement and organization.

I encourage all endoscopy assistants to attend wet labs and workshops with their endoscopists. More experience with basic techniques and learning new skills will enhance the reader's understanding of this text, and make the endoscopy assistant a more valued member of the endoscopy team!

Susan Cox