

FELINES SPECIAL: THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED APPROACH

Especial Felinos: a importância de uma abordagem individualizada

Dr. Archivaldo Reche Júnior¹ 

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Feline Medicine occupied a secondary position within small animal practice for many years, often being interpreted through extrapolations derived from Canine Medicine. This paradigm, however, gradually became unsustainable as our understanding of the biological, behavioral, and epidemiological particularities of cats advanced. Today, recognizing the cat as a patient with its own identity is no longer merely a conceptual choice, but a scientific requirement.

It is within this context that this special issue of the CRMV-SP *Revista de Educação Continuada em Medicina Veterinária e Zootecnia* is presented, entirely dedicated to Feline Medicine. More than a collection of articles, this issue represents a consistent effort to organize and disseminate knowledge applied to clinical reality, focusing on themes that reflect concrete challenges in contemporary veterinary practice in Brazil.

The studies gathered here address strategic areas of Feline Medicine. Infectious diseases, particularly sporotrichosis, highlight an increasingly relevant interface between veterinary practice and public health that remains underestimated in many contexts. At the same time, the discussion of accessible diagnostic tools, such as cytopathology, reinforces the need for more agile and cost-effective approaches in scenarios marked by high demand and limited resources.

In oncology, the case reports and reviews presented revisit the complexity of feline tumors, whose biology often imposes diagnostic and therapeutic challenges distinct from those observed in other species. In the field of retroviral diseases, the discussion of systemic manifestations associated with the feline leukemia virus broadens the understanding of an agent that, despite being extensively studied, still requires a more integrated clinical perspective.

The inclusion of topics related to nutrition and metabolism, such as feline diabetes, adds a particularly relevant perspective by connecting evolutionary, behavioral, and clinical aspects. This

1 Full Professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science of the University of São Paulo (FMVZ-USP), specialist in Feline Medicine certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP), and Scientific Director of Vetmaster Clinic, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

broader view is essential for advancing from a reactive model of medicine to one that is truly preventive and individualized.

It is also important to emphasize the fundamental role of accessibility to this material. In a country of continental dimensions and marked inequalities in access to technical information, the free availability of qualified content represents not only an educational initiative, but also a concrete strategy for impacting clinical practice and, consequently, animal and public health.

By bringing together contributions that engage directly with the Brazilian reality, this issue plays an important role in consolidating Feline Medicine as an autonomous field of knowledge, grounded in evidence and responsive to local demands. It is hoped that this material will not only provide updated information, but also encourage critical reflection and the continuous improvement of those dedicated to feline care.

A publication of the

