

7 Summary

Investigations on the development of a computer-based training program to teach helminthology in dogs and cats

The CD-ROM „Rund- und Bandwürmer bei Hund und Katze“ is a computer-based training program to teach helminthology in dogs and cats for veterinary students, practitioners and veterinary nurses.

On 248 screens and more than 150 viewers important round- and tapeworm infections of dogs and cats are explained.

The learning program was developed to operate as an information system. The tutorial and teaching function of the computer was minimised in favour of a more flexible learning environment, permitting the student to be more in charge of his own learning process. To support a more active involvement of the learner, no stringent learning objectives were defined. Rote learning and assessment of factual knowledge are not provided by the program. Instead the student is meant to decide himself, which information to obtain and which topics of the subject to work with. For these purposes he has access to a broad database. The use of this database is intended to train his information management skills.

In addition the author wanted to prepare one aspect of veterinary medicine (i.e. helminthology) in a form that employs the capacity of multimedial presentation. Complicated topics of parasitology like lifecycles, diagnostic methods and deworming schedules are simplified for the beginner by interactive and multimedial presentation. To illustrate the contents, 20 audiosequences, 15 videoclips, more than 40 animations and 300 pictures are used. The extensive description of the different parasite species enables the advanced user to increase his knowledge or look up relevant information.

In this thesis the experiences made during the development of this learning program are documented. Own results as well as recommendations from literature on the conception and production of a computer-based learning program are compiled.