

7 Summary

Development of a computer-based information system on ectoparasites of the dog and cat

The objective of this project was the development of a computer-based information system on ectoparasites of the dog and cat considering the special needs of veterinarians. Internet-based representation provides information independent of place and time. Websites can easily be updated from one place allowing for fast adoption of new information.

An overview of the relevant possibilities for veterinarians for the search for technical information on the internet was given. The problem of searching scientific information in the World Wide Web were described with special attention to the target groups. Apart from the difficulty to validate information on a website an unclear structure and an unsatisfactory design of websites are frequent problems.

The process of planning and development of the information system were described.

Special attention was given to the user-friendly organization of contents and menu guidance. The user should have to deal less with learning how to navigate within the system but be able to concentrate on the contents. Recommendations for program structure, organization and navigation of a user-friendly website are described. Problems occurring during the development were explained and solutions were described.

In the course of the project two websites were developed with same content but different organization based on different design specifications. Advantages and disadvantages of the two presentations are discussed.

With the information system „Ectoparasites of dog and cat” a relevant topic for veterinarians in practice was represented interactively.

It covers the most frequent ectoparasitoses of dog and cat occurring in Germany. Information on morphology, lifecycles and epidemiology of eleven ectoparasites of dogs and six of cats are presented with text and figures. Furthermore the information system describes clinical symptoms, diagnostics, differential diagnoses as well as modern therapy possibilities and gives practice-relevant knowledge to the student or beginner. It informs about the risks for humans and animals, following an infestation with a certain type of parasite.

The structure was designed to support the direct search for information and provide quick answers to a question in an uncomplicated way.

Basics of software-ergonomics from the DIN EN ISO standard 9241 as well as further criteria for the development of user-friendly websites, derived from literature, are described and their implementation is discussed.