

TOOLS of the TRADE

The animal equivalent to a human dentist's chair; an exceptional portable monocular microscope; and much more are under review this month



Fuji FDR D-EVO digital radiography

by Dr Sam Snelling, Advanced Vetcare, Kensington, VIC

When we opened our practice, we used a CR reader but, about three years ago, we upgraded to a Fuji DR version. Swapping from CR [computed radiography] to DR [digital radiography] has been as much of an advance as swapping from normal films to the CR.

What's good about it

It is very fast—the image appears on the computer monitor within a couple of seconds. We only have one machine but can rapidly move cases through the radiology suite. The digital image can then be shown to the client or emailed to the referring vet. That just wasn't possible with the old film based system.

We do a lot of hip replacements in our practice and also use the system for trauma cases, checking for tumours in bones, contrast studies of the urinary tract, and checking lung pathology and heart size. Even though it's not as advanced as CT, ultrasound and MRI scans, radiographs

still have a central role in diagnostics.

This system has allowed us to integrate our practice management software with our radiographs. When we charge a radiograph that is attached to the patient file, it sends a unique identification number to the X-ray machine. It populates the X-ray machine with the client and patient details and arranges for a study to be undertaken. We then take the radiograph and export the digital image to our central server. The unique number created at the start of the process means that those images are forever tagged to that patient. It has massively streamlined our radiographic process.

What's not so good

There is a fairly large capital outlay when purchasing this machine but if you look at the decrease in staff time in developing radiographs, the lack of any chemical or film costs, and the throughput benefits, it pays itself off very quickly.

Where did you get it

Fuji (www.fujifilm.com.au). ➤

IM3 Elite

by Dr Storm Gifford,
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I've been using IM3 units for dental work on dogs and cats for the past three years. My old clinic had an earlier model and we purchased this one in February this year.

What's good about it

You can use the Elite to do everything from a general scale and polish to an extraction—it's the animal equivalent to a human dentist's chair. It's completely self-contained with the compressor, air, water, dental tools and everything needed to run the equipment all in the one unit.

The whole thing is on wheels so it can be moved out of the way or to another room. We keep it in our dirty surgery/wet prep area but it can be easily moved to where it is needed.

I've only ever used it on dogs and cats but it can be used for dental work on other animals like rabbits, guinea pigs and exotic pets. The practice would simply need to purchase some animal-specific tools attached.

IM3 is a very accessible company. You can call them anytime and they will talk you through any problems you're having. A rep came out and gave us training on how to operate the machine when we first purchased it. So far, we haven't had any problems.

