

# FORMAL ABSTRACTS



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### DEVELOPMENT OF A PINNIPED ULTRASONOGRAPHY REFERENCE ATLAS

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The correct application of a diagnostic imaging tool such as ultrasound depends on standardization, documentation and archiving. With the progress of medical training ultrasonography is now included in the regular physical check-ups of sea lions and seals in many facilities but there is still little available references regarding ultrasound in these species. Expected repeatable "normal" images of the different anatomical systems are necessary to be able to recognize and interpret "abnormal" images. A reference atlas, compiling the most representative "normal" images of each system, and how to obtain them, resulted from regular voluntary – or better said "trained" – ultrasound sessions in the past 15 years with the pinniped population from several facilities. Images were obtained using a Logiq E VET, General Electric, with 4C-RS curvilinear (2-5MHz), 8C-RS micro-convex (8-10 MHz) and 12 L-RS linear (10-12 MHz) probes. Attention was given to a consistent labelling and orientation of the images. This atlas will mainly help compare new findings in the animals with their normal images. On an educational point of view, it will make an excellent tool for new veterinarians to refer to when learning this skill. It will also be useful for a better inter-facility comparison. Although this document has now been printed for a quicker visual help, this is an on-going process. Technology evolves quite rapidly, better performing equipment becomes available and more is learned about interpretation of this kind of diagnostic imaging every day. But also our medical knowledge about these animals is a constant learning curve. Such an atlas would never have been possible without the excellent training skills of these animals' trainers.

