

A canine prostate palpation model:

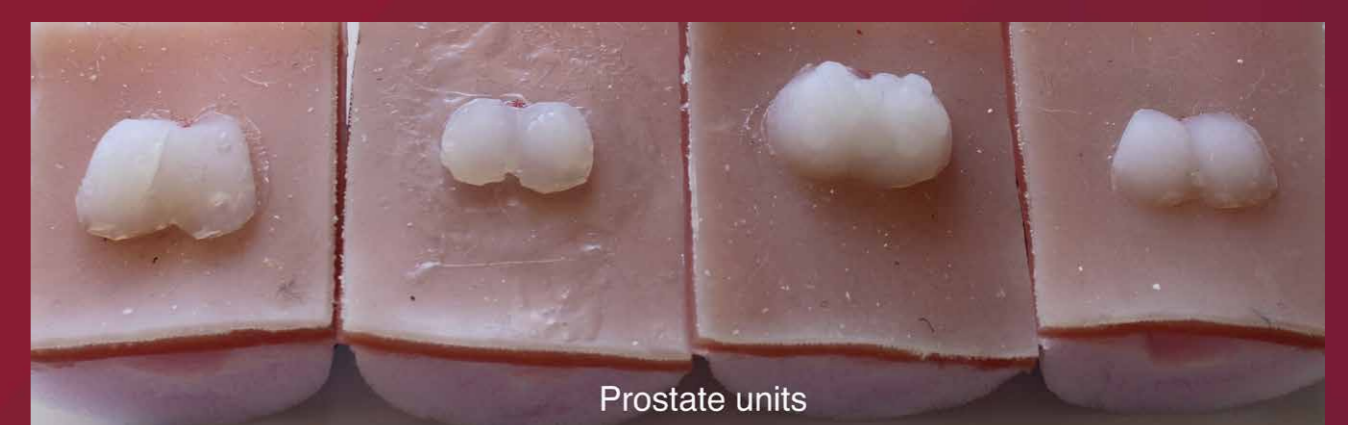
From prototype to a great teaching and assessment tool

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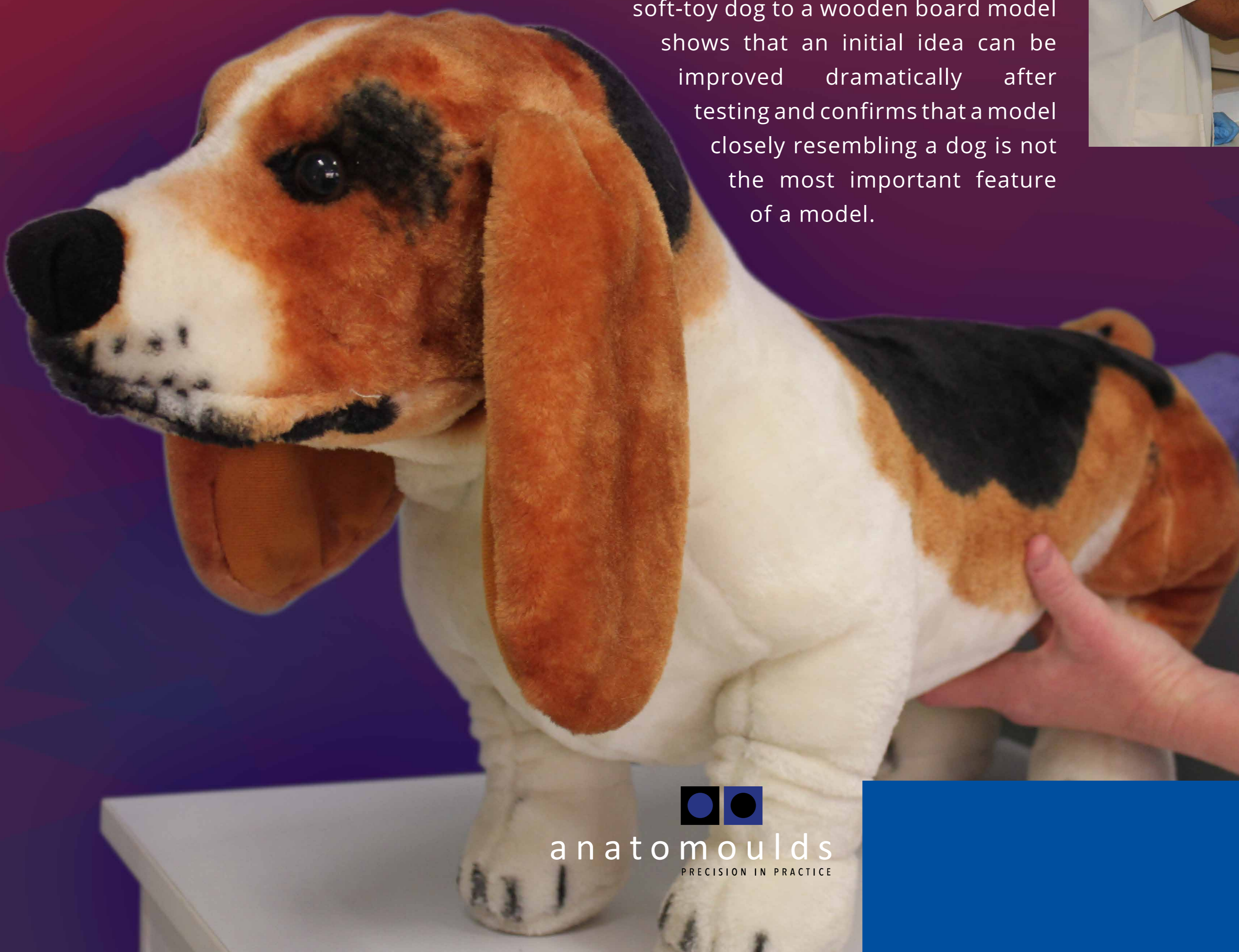
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A canine prostate palpation model was developed using a standing soft toy dog, silicone parts (anus, rectum, prostates, skin pads) and polyethylene foam ("pool noodle") pieces. The silicone anus and rectum were sewn into the perineal area of the soft toy dog. A variety of normal and abnormal prostates of different sizes and consistencies were placed on soft silicone skin pads that were glued onto 100mm pieces of polyethylene foam. These prostate units were interchangeable by access to the pelvic area through a zipper on the back of the model. Changing prostate units was difficult and took long which complicated the model use for larger student groups and during assessments. The prototype was then changed. Four dog backends, made of artificial fur and with tails, were attached to a 100mm(H)x150mm(L)x 10mm(W) wooden board. The anal areas were cut out and the silicone anuses and rectums placed into the pre-cut spots. The prostate units are held



in place with velcro straps in halved plastic tubes that are attached to the opposite side of the wooden board at the level of the anuses. Students can now palpate four prostate conditions on the same board. Another advantage of the updated model is the ease and speed of exchanging prostate units. The development process from a soft-toy dog to a wooden board model shows that an initial idea can be improved dramatically after testing and confirms that a model closely resembling a dog is not the most important feature of a model.



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