Museum of Morphology
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This scientific morphological collection is located on the campus of the UGent Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and is allied to its Department of Morphology. Research, teaching and public education are intensively interrelated in this museum. The majority of objects stem from research projects and are frequently demonstrated in practicals for students, workshops and conducted tours for visitors. Furthermore, the study of preservation techniques itself forms part of the research topics of the department. The museum is a place for veterinary students to study anatomy. However during the last years efforts have been made to increase the visibility outside the university as well. Today the collection is to a large extent on public display, as a digital database is being composed of which a representative sample of records is visible online, completed with a scientific and vulgarized description. In addition an education service for primary and secondary schools is being established and the museum participates in science popularizing programs (e.g. a workshop in comparative anatomy on the left). The museum houses three types of specimens, namely skeletons, plastinates and corrosion casts of vertebrate species, mainly of domestic animals. Although specimens of other species are collected to demonstrate comparative anatomy (e.g. preparation of mandibulae of a fin whale on the right).

Skeletons

The study of comparative zoological anatomy commences with the study of the skeleton. Therefore, the morphology department keeps abreast of the latest developments in the expertise of preparing and preserving bones. Equipment for degreasing bony tissues and a Dermestid beetle (Dermestes spp.) colony are available.

Plastinates

In the plastination technique water and liquid tissues are replaced by curable polymers such as silicone, epoxy and polyester-copolymer. This process results in dry, flexible and non-toxic specimens. These qualities make the plastinates suitable didactic models and highly approachable objects for museum visitors.

Corrosion Casts

The UGent Veterinary Department of Morphology has a long tradition studying blood vessels. To gain more insight in the vascular anatomy, corrosion casts are created by injecting a liquid resin (monomer) into blood vessels of a cadaver. After polymerization of the resin the soft tissues are macerated.

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Acknowledgments: The authors thank Bart De Pauw for his technical assistance.

Conference: Academic Culture of Remembrance, 16-17 March 2011, Ghent, Belgium

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