

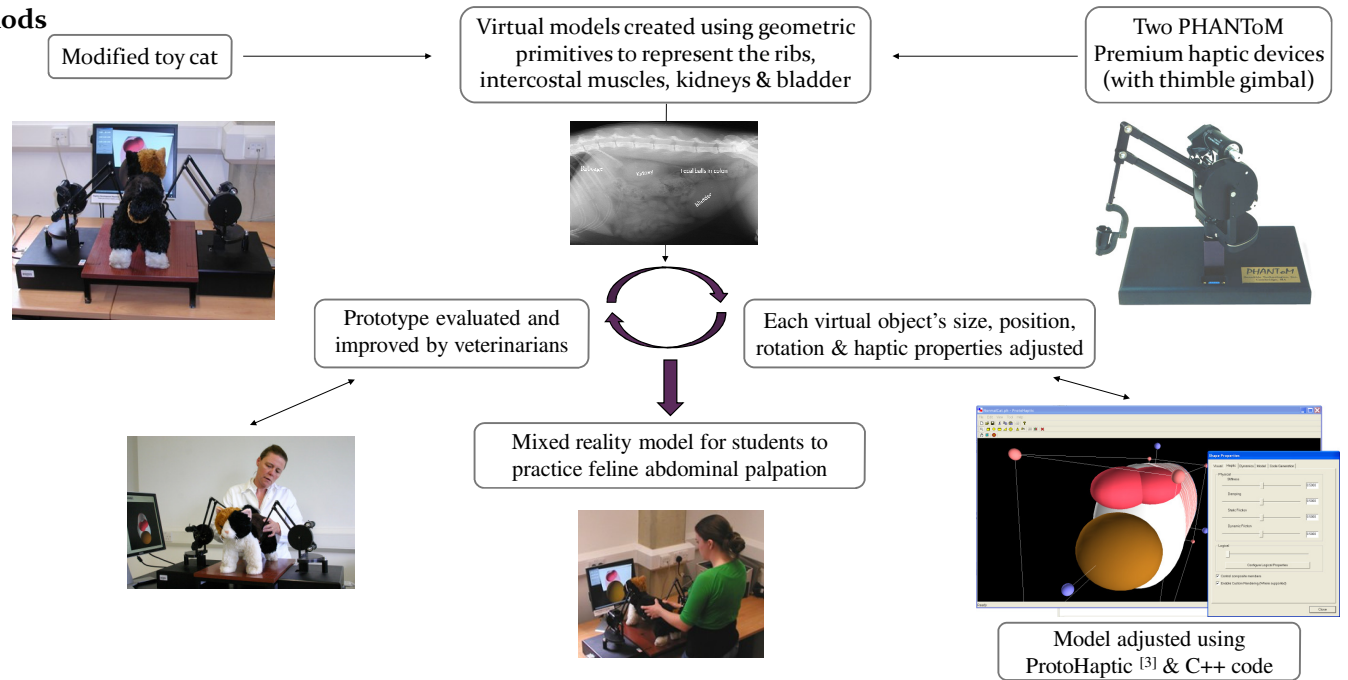
Rebecca PARKES, Neil FORREST, Sarah BAILLIE
The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK

Why Feline Abdominal Palpation?

- * Palpation is a widely used skill in veterinary medicine
- * It is difficult to teach because it is a manual skill & structures are often out of sight, so guidance cannot easily be given by the instructor
- * Simulators are increasingly used in veterinary medicine ^[1]
- * Haptic simulators can provide useful, transferable skills ^[2]
- * Cats have a limited tolerance for multiple examinations



Methods



Results

- * Encouraging comments from veterinarians regarding realism
- * Combination of toy cat and virtual modelling improves face validity
- * The model can be used by students to practice performing an examination

Conclusions

- * The simulator has the potential to address some current training issues, such as:
 - * Insufficient opportunities for hands-on practice
 - * Reducing welfare issues associated with the use of live animals for training
 - * Further work will include the addition of e.g. other abdominal organs, lymph nodes, tumours and a heartbeat
 - * Further studies will evaluate the contribution to student learning

