

cat hind leg anatomy

cat hind leg anatomy is a fascinating topic that reveals the intricate structure and function of a cat's powerful rear limbs. Understanding the anatomy of a cat's hind legs is essential for pet owners, veterinarians, and animal enthusiasts alike. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the bones, muscles, joints, nerves, and common health concerns related to the hind legs of cats. We'll explore the unique adaptations that make feline hind legs so agile and strong, discuss how their anatomy supports jumping and running, and highlight issues that can affect mobility and overall health. Whether you're curious about your cat's movement or seeking detailed anatomical knowledge, this guide offers valuable insights. Dive in to discover the vital components and functions of cat hind leg anatomy.

- Key Features of Cat Hind Leg Anatomy
- Bones of the Cat Hind Leg
- Muscles and Their Functions
- Joints and Ligaments
- Nerve and Blood Supply
- Adaptations for Movement
- Common Hind Leg Health Issues
- Observing and Maintaining Hind Leg Health

Key Features of Cat Hind Leg Anatomy

The cat hind leg anatomy is distinguished by its specialized structure, which enables remarkable agility and strength. These limbs are designed to support the cat's body, absorb shock during jumps, and provide propulsion for running and leaping. The hind legs are longer and more muscular than the forelimbs, allowing cats to reach impressive speeds and heights. Their anatomical configuration ensures stability, balance, and flexibility, all of which are crucial for survival in both wild and domestic environments. The synergy between bones, muscles, joints, and nerves creates a system optimized for swift, precise movements.

- Powerful muscles for jumping and sprinting

- Complex joints for flexibility and rotation
- Strong bones for weight-bearing and movement
- Sensitive nerves for coordination

Bones of the Cat Hind Leg

Pelvis

The pelvis is a large, sturdy bone structure that connects the spine to the hind limbs. It comprises the ilium, ischium, and pubis, forming the base of support for the cat's body. The pelvis also protects vital organs and provides attachment points for several powerful muscles.

Femur

The femur is the longest and strongest bone in the cat's hind leg. It extends from the hip joint to the knee and plays a central role in supporting body weight and enabling movement. The femur's rounded head fits into the pelvis's acetabulum, forming the hip joint.

Patella

The patella, or kneecap, is a small, flat bone located at the front of the knee joint. It acts as a protective shield and facilitates smooth movement of the leg by increasing leverage for the quadriceps muscle.

Tibia and Fibula

Below the knee, the tibia and fibula run parallel to each other. The tibia is the larger, weight-bearing bone, while the fibula is thinner and provides structural support. Together, they connect the knee to the ankle.

Tarsal, Metatarsal, and Phalangeal Bones

The tarsal bones form the ankle and heel, offering flexibility and shock absorption. Metatarsal bones extend from the ankle to the toes, contributing to stride length and cushioning. The phalanges are the bones of the toes, crucial for grip and balance.

- Pelvis

- Femur
- Patella
- Tibia & Fibula
- Tarsals
- Metatarsals
- Phalanges

Muscles and Their Functions

Gluteal Muscles

The gluteal muscles are located around the pelvis and upper femur. They are responsible for extending and rotating the hip, helping cats leap and climb with force.

Quadriceps Femoris

The quadriceps are a group of four muscles at the front of the thigh. They extend the knee and provide stability during standing and running.

Hamstring Group

Found at the back of the thigh, the hamstrings flex the knee and extend the hip. These muscles are essential for sprinting and jumping.

Gastrocnemius and Other Calf Muscles

The gastrocnemius and soleus muscles form the bulk of the calf. They are involved in extending the ankle and propelling the cat forward during movement.

Intrinsic Foot Muscles

Smaller muscles within the paw allow for precise toe movements and contribute to the cat's ability to grip surfaces and land softly.

- Gluteal group for hip movement

- Quadriceps for knee extension
- Hamstrings for hip extension and knee flexion
- Calf muscles for ankle movement
- Foot muscles for toe control

Joints and Ligaments

Hip Joint

The hip is a ball-and-socket joint formed by the femur and pelvis. It allows multidirectional movement, including flexion, extension, rotation, and abduction.

Knee Joint (Stifle)

The stifle joint, equivalent to the human knee, is a hinge joint between the femur and tibia. It enables flexion and extension, vital for walking, running, and jumping.

Hock Joint (Ankle)

The hock is a complex joint formed by the tibia, fibula, and tarsal bones. It provides flexibility for rapid acceleration and deceleration, as well as stability during landing.

Ligaments

Ligaments are strong bands of connective tissue that stabilize joints. Key ligaments in the cat hind leg include the cruciate ligaments in the knee and the collateral ligaments in the hip and hock.

- Hip joint for multidirectional movement
- Knee joint for flexion/extension
- Hock joint for ankle flexibility
- Cruciate and collateral ligaments for joint stability

Nerve and Blood Supply

Sciatic Nerve

The sciatic nerve is the largest nerve supplying the hind leg. It runs from the lower spine through the pelvis, down the thigh, and branches into the lower leg, controlling muscle movement and sensation.

Femoral Nerve

The femoral nerve innervates the quadriceps muscle, facilitating knee extension and thigh movement. It is crucial for mobility and coordination.

Blood Vessels

Major arteries such as the femoral artery deliver oxygenated blood to the hind leg muscles and bones. Veins return deoxygenated blood to the heart. Proper circulation is essential for tissue health and healing.

- Sciatic nerve for leg movement
- Femoral nerve for thigh function
- Femoral artery for blood supply
- Veins for blood return

Adaptations for Movement

Jumping and Leaping

Cats are renowned for their ability to jump several times their body length. This is made possible by the powerful muscles, elongated bones, and spring-like joints in the hind legs. The structure allows for rapid, explosive bursts of energy.

Running and Sprinting

The hind leg anatomy supports quick acceleration and agile direction changes. The flexible joints and strong muscles enable cats to outrun predators and catch prey.

Balance and Coordination

Cats use their hind legs for balance when climbing, landing, and walking along narrow surfaces. The paws and toes provide sensory feedback, ensuring precise movements.

- Long bones for stride length
- Muscle power for jumping
- Flexible joints for agility
- Sensitive paws for balance

Common Hind Leg Health Issues

Injuries

Fractures, sprains, and ligament tears are common injuries affecting the cat hind leg anatomy. Trauma from falls or accidents can damage bones, muscles, or joints.

Arthritis and Joint Disease

Older cats often develop arthritis, leading to stiffness, pain, and reduced mobility. Joint diseases such as hip dysplasia or patellar luxation can impair movement and quality of life.

Neurological Disorders

Conditions affecting the nerves, such as sciatic nerve injury or feline neuropathy, may cause weakness, loss of coordination, or paralysis in the hind limbs.

Muscle Atrophy

Muscle wasting can occur due to inactivity, injury, or underlying health issues, reducing strength and stability in the hind legs.

- Fractures and sprains
- Arthritis and joint disease

- Neurological problems
- Muscle atrophy

Observing and Maintaining Hind Leg Health

Signs of Healthy Hind Legs

A healthy cat will move smoothly, jump confidently, and show no signs of pain or limping. Regular grooming and play can help maintain muscle tone and joint flexibility.

Warning Signs of Problems

Watch for limping, reluctance to jump, swelling, or visible deformities. Changes in gait, muscle wasting, or difficulty standing may indicate underlying issues.

Veterinary Care and Prevention

Annual check-ups, balanced nutrition, and safe environments reduce the risk of injury and disease. Early intervention is crucial for managing hind leg problems and ensuring a long, active life for your cat.

- Monitor mobility and activity
- Provide regular exercise
- Seek veterinary advice for any concerns
- Ensure proper nutrition and weight control

Trending Questions and Answers about Cat Hind Leg Anatomy

Q: What bones make up a cat's hind leg?

A: The main bones of a cat's hind leg are the pelvis, femur, patella, tibia, fibula, tarsals, metatarsals, and phalanges.

Q: Why are a cat's hind legs so powerful?

A: Cats have strong, elongated muscles and bones in their hind legs, allowing for explosive jumps, rapid sprints, and remarkable agility.

Q: What is the most common injury in a cat's hind leg?

A: Fractures and ligament tears, especially in the knee and ankle joints, are among the most common hind leg injuries in cats.

Q: How can I tell if my cat has a hind leg problem?

A: Signs include limping, reluctance to jump, swelling, changes in gait, and visible pain during movement.

Q: What role do the gluteal muscles play in a cat's hind leg anatomy?

A: Gluteal muscles extend and rotate the hip, providing the power needed for leaping and climbing.

Q: How do cats use their hind legs for balance?

A: Cats rely on their hind legs for stability, coordination, and precise movements, especially when climbing or landing.

Q: What nerve controls movement in the cat's hind leg?

A: The sciatic nerve is the primary nerve controlling movement and sensation in the cat's hind leg.

Q: Can cats get arthritis in their hind legs?

A: Yes, cats can develop arthritis in their hind leg joints, leading to pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility, particularly as they age.

Q: How should I maintain my cat's hind leg health?

A: Provide regular exercise, maintain a healthy weight, observe for any changes in movement, and schedule annual veterinary check-ups.

Q: What adaptations make cat hind legs unique for jumping?

A: Cat hind legs feature elongated bones, powerful muscles, flexible joints, and sensitive paws, all optimized for high jumps and quick bursts of speed.

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Cat Hind Leg Anatomy: A Comprehensive Guide

Understanding your feline friend's hind leg anatomy is crucial for responsible pet ownership. Whether you're a veterinarian, a veterinary student, a dedicated cat owner, or simply fascinated by feline biology, this comprehensive guide will delve into the intricate structure and function of a cat's powerful hind legs. We'll explore the bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons that make up this complex system, providing detailed information to enhance your understanding of cat health and well-being.

The Skeletal Structure of the Cat Hind Leg

The cat's hind leg, like that of other mammals, is built for power and agility. Its skeletal framework is remarkably efficient, allowing for incredible leaps and swift movements. Let's examine the key components:

Femur (Thigh Bone):

The femur is the longest bone in the cat's body, forming the thigh. Its robust structure provides the foundation for powerful muscle attachments. Its shape and orientation are optimized for both propulsion and shock absorption during landing.

Patella (Kneecap):

The patella is a small, sesamoid bone embedded within the quadriceps tendon. Its function is to increase the leverage of the quadriceps muscle, improving knee extension and jump height. Dislocations are common injuries in cats.

Tibia and Fibula (Lower Leg):

The tibia and fibula are the two bones of the lower leg. The tibia, the larger of the two, bears the majority of the weight. The fibula runs parallel to the tibia, providing structural support and muscle attachment points.

Tarsal Bones (Ankle):

The tarsal bones are a collection of small bones forming the ankle joint. These bones, analogous to human ankle bones, allow for a range of motion crucial for flexible movement. They provide stability while absorbing impact during locomotion.

Metatarsals and Phalanges (Foot):

The metatarsals are the long bones of the foot, connecting the tarsal bones to the phalanges (toe bones). The phalanges, similar to human fingers and toes, allow for grip and dexterity, albeit modified for a cat's unique gait. Retractable claws are housed within protective sheaths on each phalanx.

Muscles of the Cat Hind Leg

The hind leg's musculature is responsible for the cat's incredible leaping ability and agility. Several key muscle groups contribute to this functionality:

Quadriceps Femoris:

This group of four muscles, located on the front of the thigh, is crucial for extending the knee. They

are essential for powerful jumps and locomotion.

Hamstring Muscles:

These muscles, located on the back of the thigh, flex the knee and extend the hip. They play a critical role in both propulsion and controlled braking during movement.

Gastrocnemius and Soleus Muscles (Calf Muscles):

These calf muscles are responsible for plantarflexion of the ankle – pointing the toes downwards – vital for pushing off the ground during locomotion and jumping.

Other Important Muscles:

Numerous other smaller muscles contribute to the intricate movements of the cat's hind leg, including those responsible for hip rotation, ankle stability, and toe movement.

Ligaments and Tendons: Supporting Structures

Ligaments and tendons play a crucial supporting role, connecting bones and muscles respectively, ensuring stability and efficient movement. Damage to these structures can lead to significant hind leg dysfunction. Cruciate ligaments, in particular, are prone to injury in cats, often requiring surgical intervention.

Cruciate Ligaments:

These ligaments stabilize the knee joint, preventing anterior and posterior movement of the tibia relative to the femur. Tears in these ligaments are a common cause of hind leg lameness.

Clinical Significance and Common Injuries

Understanding the cat hind leg anatomy is vital for diagnosing and treating various injuries and conditions. Some common issues include:

Hip Dysplasia:

A developmental condition affecting the hip joint, often leading to pain and lameness.

Luxating Patella:

Dislocation of the kneecap, a common problem in smaller breeds.

Cruciate Ligament Rupture:

A tear in one or both cruciate ligaments, typically requiring surgical repair.

Fractures:

Bones of the hind leg are prone to fractures due to falls or trauma.

Conclusion

The cat hind leg is a marvel of evolutionary engineering, perfectly adapted for its arboreal and predatory lifestyle. A thorough understanding of its complex anatomy, including bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons, is essential for veterinarians, animal care professionals, and responsible cat owners alike. Recognizing the potential for injury and seeking prompt veterinary attention when problems arise is crucial for maintaining your feline companion's health and mobility.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the most common hind leg injuries in cats? Common injuries include cruciate ligament tears, luxating patella, hip dysplasia, and fractures.

2. How can I tell if my cat has a hind leg injury? Signs include limping, swelling, pain upon palpation, difficulty jumping, or changes in gait. Veterinary examination is essential for diagnosis.
3. What kind of treatment is available for hind leg injuries in cats? Treatment varies depending on the severity and type of injury and can range from rest and pain management to surgery and rehabilitation.
4. Can cats recover fully from hind leg injuries? Recovery depends on the severity of the injury and the effectiveness of treatment. Many cats make a full recovery with appropriate veterinary care.
5. How can I prevent hind leg injuries in my cat? Maintaining a healthy weight, providing a safe environment, and avoiding excessive strenuous activity can help minimize the risk of hind leg injuries.

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cat hind leg anatomy: Cunningham's Textbook of Veterinary Physiology - E-Book T Bradley G. Klein, 2012-07-11 Understanding the normal functions of the body is essential for successful veterinary practice and for understanding the mechanisms of disease. The 5th edition of Textbook of Veterinary Physiology approaches this vast subject in a practical, user-friendly way that helps you understand how key concepts relate to clinical practice. From cell physiology to body system function to homeostasis and immune function, this comprehensive text gives you the solid foundation you need to provide effective veterinary care. - Clinical Correlations boxes present case studies that illustrate how to apply physiology principles and concepts to the diagnosis and treatment of veterinary patients. - Key Points at the beginning of each chapter introduce new concepts and help you prepare for exams. - Practice questions at the end of each chapter test your understanding of what you've just read and provide valuable review for exams. - Full-color format highlights helpful information and enhances learning with a wealth of illustrations that visually depict specific functions and conditions. - Expanded resources on the companion Evolve website include state-of-the-art 3D animations, practice questions, a glossary, and additional Clinical

Correlations not found in the text.

cat hind leg anatomy: *The Set of the Soul* Lilly Ann Bay, 2019-04-10 Twelve companions are brought together to fulfill a formidable quest. Their only chance of success lies in the equal participation of all twelve members in order to overcome an evil entity within their midst. Their journey is fraught with adventure and twists at each step of the way. The final battle will take place in the ruins of an ancient city. Can a group of twelve work together and win the day? The continuation of their world as they know it depends on the outcome.

cat hind leg anatomy: *The Cat* Sarah Brown, 2020-03-03 The Cat; A Natural History takes an absorbing, in-depth look at the biology, behaviour and diversity of this popular animal. ● Provides a comprehensive, richly illustrated introduction to the natural and cultural history of the cat, ● Offers an in-depth discussion of behaviour, including social organization, communication, courtship, and learning, ● Covers anatomy and physiology, including mobility, predation skills, and the genetics of coat colors, ● Features clear and accessible text plus infographics, diagrams, and 250 stunning color photographs, ● Includes a beautiful photographic directory of more than forty breeds, Tracking the evolution of the cat from its first ancestor, the Pseudaelurus, to the emergence of the modern domestic cat, Sarah Brown looks at how different lineages of the species developed and how the domestic cat *Felis* came into contact with humans. Clear accounts of how the cat's body functions help explain its extraordinary ability to balance, assess its hunting abilities, and understand its health and dietary needs. Details about the range of coat types and colors and their genetics give a comprehensive overview of the many breeds and nonbreeds we see today. Descriptions of the function of whiskers, the cat's reliance on their sense of smell, and the sensory importance of the tongue all contribute to our understanding of the cat's physiology. Cat communication by different means is covered, including vocalization and non-vocal communication. Whether living in the wild, on the streets or in a domestic setting, learning how to relate to other cats is a central element to cats' socialization, and this is discussed as part of an in-depth look at cat behaviour. The cat's notorious independent spirit and how it affects the cat-human relationship is assessed, and we take a look at attitudes to cats over the centuries and show how cats have featured in culture. The author offers advice on how to promote feline harmony in a multi-cat household, and how to enhance your pet's physical and mental well-being. A directory of breeds features gorgeous photographs of more than 40 popular breeds, alongside details of their characteristics, genetic background and care requirements. Modern breeding and associated issues are raised, and a comprehensive glossary of medical terms covers health issues that owners need to know. Anyone with an interest in or love for cats, and all those who have owned a cat will find much to learn and enjoy in *The Cat; A Natural History*.

cat hind leg anatomy: *Atlas of Feline Anatomy For Veterinarians* Lola Hudson, William Hamilton, 2017-06-12 Presenting more than 266 full color anatomic drawings arranged by organ system, this book is dedicated exclusively to feline anatomy with emphasis on those areas of anatomy that are frequently encountered in clinical practice. It includes a highly detailed chapter on special senses which collects and organizes difficult to find information for quick access. Nomenclature is from *Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria* so that the feline anatomy is in line with that used in other textbooks of veterinary anatomy of the domestic animals. The book accurately captures the anatomy pertinent to clinical veterinary medicine.

cat hind leg anatomy: *The Cat, a Guide to the Classification and Varieties of Cats and a Short Treatise Upon Their Care, Diseases, and Treatment* Rush Shippen Huidekoper, 1895 PREFACE. THE Author of this very practical treatise on Scotch Loch - Fishing desires clearly that it may be of use to all who had it. He does not pretend to have written anything new, but to have attempted to put what he has to say in as readable a form as possible. Everything in the way of the history and habits of fish has been studiously avoided, and technicalities have been used as sparingly as possible. The writing of this book has afforded him pleasure in his leisure moments, and that pleasure would be much increased if he knew that the perusal of it would create any bond of sympathy between himself and the angling community in general. This section is interleaved with blank sheets for the readers

notes. The Author need hardly say that any suggestions addressed to the case of the publishers, will meet with consideration in a future edition. We do not pretend to write or enlarge upon a new subject. Much has been said and written-and well said and written too on the art of fishing but loch-fishing has been rather looked upon as a second-rate performance, and to dispel this idea is one of the objects for which this present treatise has been written. Far be it from us to say anything against fishing, lawfully practised in any form but many pent up in our large towns will bear us out when we say that, on the whole, a days loch-fishing is the most convenient. One great matter is, that the loch-fisher is depend-ent on nothing but enough wind to curl the water, -and on a large loch it is very seldom that a dead calm prevails all day, -and can make his arrangements for a day, weeks beforehand whereas the stream- fisher is dependent for a good take on the state of the water and however pleasant and easy it may be for one living near the banks of a good trout stream or river, it is quite another matter to arrange for a days river-fishing, if one is looking forward to a holiday at a date some weeks ahead. Providence may favour the expectant angler with a good day, and the water in order but experience has taught most of us that the good days are in the minority, and that, as is the case with our rapid running streams, -such as many of our northern streams are, -the water is either too large or too small, unless, as previously remarked, you live near at hand, and can catch it at its best. A common belief in regard to loch-fishing is, that the tyro and the experienced angler have nearly the same chance in fishing, -the one from the stern and the other from the bow of the same boat. Of all the absurd beliefs as to loch-fishing, this is one of the most absurd. Try it. Give the tyro either end of the boat he likes give him a cast of ally flies he may fancy, or even a cast similar to those which a crack may be using and if he catches one for every three the other has, he may consider himself very lucky. Of course there are lochs where the fish are not abundant, and a beginner may come across as many as an older fisher but we speak of lochs where there are fish to be caught, and where each has a fair chance. Again, it is said that the boatman has as much to do with catching trout in a loch as the angler. Well, we dont deny that. In an untried loch it is necessary to have the guidance of a good boatman but the same argument holds good as to stream-fishing...

cat hind leg anatomy: Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare Ilona Rodan, Sarah Heath, 2015-08-24 Learn to manage the physical and psychological well-being of your feline patients with Feline Behavioral Medicine: Prevention and Treatment. From house soiling problems to aggression, this all-new reference offers detailed guidance on assessing, treating, and preventing the full spectrum of feline behavioral problems. Material is organized by both topic and life stage for quick access to the information you need. Plus its incorporation of patient education materials, instructive images, and the latest AAFP guidelines, makes it an invaluable addition to any vet clinician's library. This book ... will undoubtedly become THE reference in that very specific field. Reviewed by: Fabienne Dethioux on behalf of Royal Canin: Vets Today, January 2016 UNIQUE! Focus on the prevention of behavior problems is found throughout the majority of the book to show clinicians how to incorporate behavioral considerations into general practice. Comprehensive, holistic care fusing the physical and psychological well-being of feline patients serves as a foundation for all content. International team of expert contributors provides in-depth, authoritative guidance using the most up-to-date information available. Updated information on preventive advice and treatment recommendations follows the guidelines set forth by the AAFP. Client handouts and behavior questionnaires in the book help vets clearly communicate with clients about their cat's behavior.

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cat hind leg anatomy: Processing of Sensory Information in the Superficial Dorsal Horn of the Spinal Cord F. Cervero, G. J. Bennett, P. M. Headley, 2012-12-06 This book constitutes the proceedings of a NATO Advanced Research Workshop held in El Escorial (Spain) from 22 -27 May

1988 with the title Processing of sensory information in the superficial dorsal horn of the spinal cord. Included in the book are reports of most of the main lectures given at the meeting, section introductions written by each session Chairman, section reports compiled by session rapporteurs and some short papers invited from authors of communications given in poster form. The latter were selected on the basis of being immediately relevant to the topic of the workshop and of originating from a laboratory not represented by the main speakers. All in all we believe that the reader can get a fair idea of the structure and general character of this Workshop. The overall aim of the meeting was to review the current state of knowledge on the role of the superficial dorsal horn of the mammalian spinal cord as a nucleus of relay and modulation of the somatic and visceral sensory input to the central nervous system. In this context, the contribution of this spinal cord region to the appreciation of pain was a central topic of discussion. Over the last decade there has been a considerable increase in anatomical, physiological and neurochemical studies of the superficial dorsal horn.

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cat hind leg anatomy: *Skulls and Bones* Glenn Searfoss, 1995 How to identify mammal bones and comprehend what the structures indicate about each animal's lifestyle.

cat hind leg anatomy: **The Doctrine of Evolution: Its Basis and Its Scope** Henry Edward Crampton, 2022-05-29 The Doctrine of Evolution by Henry Edward Crampton describes in concise outline the Doctrine of Evolution, its basis in the facts of natural history, and its wide and universal scope.

cat hind leg anatomy: *Dexterity and Its Development* Nicholai A. Bernstein, 2014-04-04 This is a very unusual book. It brings to the English speaking reader a masterpiece written some 50 years ago by one of the greatest minds of the 20th century--Nicholai Aleksandrovich Bernstein--considered the founder of many contemporary fields of science such as biomechanics, motor control, and physiology of activity. Divided into two parts, this volume's first section is a translation of the Russian book On Dexterity and Its Development. It presents, in a very reader-friendly style, Bernstein's major ideas related to the development and control of voluntary movements in general, and to the notion of dexterity, in particular. Although very few scientific works remain interesting to the reader 50 years after they were written, this volume--now available for the first time in English--is a rare exception to this rule. His ideas are certainly not obsolete. Actually, we are just starting to grasp the depth and breadth of his thinking, especially his analysis of the complex notion of dexterity. The second section provides both a historical and a contemporary perspective on Bernstein's ideas. The original work was directed at a wide audience ranging from specialists in biomechanics and motor behavior, to coaches, neurologists, physical therapists, athletes, and even inquisitive college and high school students. The chapters contributed by contemporary scientists mirror Bernstein's style and present new findings in the areas of biomechanics, motor control, and motor development in a way that would be both understandable to non-specialists in these areas, and informative for professionals working in different areas related to human movement. All those interested in the origins and mechanisms of the production of voluntary movements, irrespective of their educational and professional background, will find this book valuable. In addition, the unique history and composition of this text will make it helpful and attractive to historians and philosophers of science.

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