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Anomaly of the Cat

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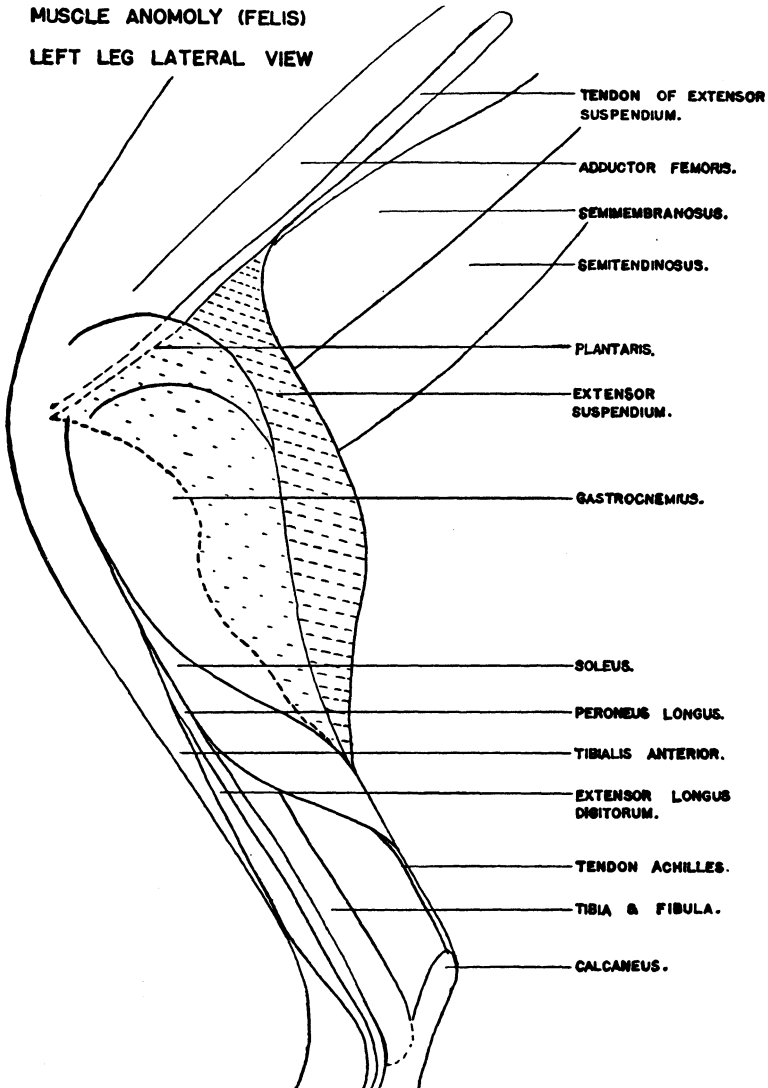
Anomaly of the Cat

By ROBERT H. LABLANC

In the Mammalian Anatomy course at Drake University, an apparent muscle anomaly was observed in the leg of the cat. In some 3500 cats dissected at Drake in the last 10 years, this has been the only such muscle found. A survey of Biological abstracts revealed no mention of such an anomaly.

MUSCLE ANOMOLY (FELIS)

LEFT LEG LATERAL VIEW



Careful examination of this particular specimen revealed that the tendon of this muscle has an origin on the lateral surface of the greater trochanter at the proximal end of the femur. This tendon, very large, parallels the course of the sciatic nerve and extends to the medial tuberosity of the distal end of the femur. The head of the muscle itself is attached to the lower half of this tendon, the muscular tissue extending to the tendon's attachment on the medial tuberosity. The origin of the muscle, therefore appears to extend the full lower half of this tendon which in turn extends the full length of the femur.

The head portion of the muscle is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and is flat. The muscle then narrows toward the center, broadens again, and thickens along the shank, finally inserting with the tendon of Achilles on the calcanium. The all-over length of the muscle itself is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The plantaris in this cat was found to be smaller than in the average cat and the all-over size of the shank, slightly larger.

The position of this muscle in relation to other muscles in the area is shown in the accompanying drawing and photograph of the left hind leg, lateral view. It will be noted that its position is external and dorsal to the gastrocnemius, and in lateral view covers the posterior portion of both the semitendinosus and semimembranosus.

Blood enters and leaves the body of the muscle on its lateral side about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down. Blood is supplied by a branch of the Suralis artery and the nerve by a branch of the internal Popliteal.

The function of this muscle is definitely extension of the foot, and there is possible slight flexion of the shank.

The purpose of this report is to call attention to the presence of this anomaly with the hope that other observations of similar conditions will be reported.

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