

safe and successful sedative and anaesthetic agents have been developed. Experimental surgeons familiar and comfortable with their use are advised not to change.

Chapter 3 deals with catheterization of vessels. Information about the most suitable catheters available and detailed descriptions of the techniques for their placement are included for simple temporary and permanent jugular catheterization, and for much more complex procedures such as catheterization of the hepatic vein, renal vessels and abdominal aorta.

Chapters 4 to 9 are devoted respectively to cannulated fistulations of the alimentary tract, surgery to create compartments or pouches, surgery of the ducted glands, exteriorization of blood vessels and nerves, transportation and removal of organs, and surgery of the foetus. Each procedure is described in a clear precise way and the text is augmented by excellent line drawings which make even the most complex techniques simple to follow. Suture techniques for closure to viscera and surgical wounds are included. Readers may find it difficult to understand why particular suture materials are used. Some explanation of the merits and demerits of each would be helpful.

Two appendices comprise useful lists of proprietary drugs and chemicals and of equipment which are mentioned in the text, and there is a comprehensive list of 129 references to relevant published work.

This book contains a wealth of information based on the author's unique experience and is essential reading for anyone involved in experimental surgery in farm animals. Readers can approach these procedures confident in the knowledge that they have been tried, tested and refined over many years. The author is to be thanked for sharing his knowledge and experience to the benefit of fellow scientists and, not least, the animals under their care whose welfare is of paramount importance.

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The BMA Guide to Rabies

British Medical Association (BMA) (1995). Radcliffe Medical Press Ltd: Abingdon. 140pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 18 Marcham Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1AA, UK (ISBN 1 85775 180 9). Price £17.50.

Is Britain justified in insisting on six months quarantine for dogs and cats entering the United Kingdom? Many people in the European Union, wishing to travel to Britain from rabies-free areas with their vaccinated pets, feel that quarantine is unreasonable and causes great distress to animals and their owners. The British Isles, however, have enjoyed a rabies-free status for a long time, and its inhabitants do not wish to run any risk of re-introducing a disease which is so terrifying in its manifestations.

The controversy came to a head in 1992, when the European Union (EU) established the Single Market, and put pressure on the UK to harmonize its border controls to allow free movement of people and goods. The British Medical Association responded by asking its Board of Science and Education to set up a Working Party, which would include medical and non-medical experts, to investigate whether the present quarantine regulations should be maintained.

The BMA Guide to Rabies draws on their findings, and aims to set out the facts about rabies and its control in some detail so that people influencing and enforcing control policies can discuss it in an informed way. New factors are taken into consideration, ie the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the success of oral vaccines in controlling rabies in foxes, and the rise in the urban fox population in Britain.

The BMA came to the firm conclusion that Britain's policy must be to keep rabies out. Apart from the human and animal welfare considerations, there are financial reasons for wanting to prevent rabies becoming endemic, such as the cost to the NHS of treating people who have been bitten by rabid animals, and the cost of compensation to farmers for the compulsory slaughter of livestock put at risk from rabid animals. There is also a strong social argument, because in countries where rabies is present, even at low levels, the attitude of people towards animals must change from friendliness to distrust, and even in the countryside one must always be on guard. The British people's reputation as animal lovers could be put at risk.

The guide starts by taking the reader through the history of rabies in Western Europe and how it was eradicated by the beginning of the 20th century, by a combination of leash laws, control of straying dogs, quarantine and vaccination. It was then re-introduced during the Second World War by foxes from Eastern Europe infected with a different, sylvatic strain of the rabies virus. This strain was not so infective to dogs as the earlier one, but still caused great losses amongst livestock and was a risk to humans and their pets. It has now been almost eradicated by the European Union's massive programme to immunize foxes using oral vaccines.

In the UK, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) relaxed the Rabies Order in 1994 so as to partly implement the EU's Balai Directive. Now commercially-traded dogs and cats are allowed to enter Britain from the EU without quarantine, so long as they are certified as healthy, identified by implanted microchip, vaccinated and shown by serological testing to have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU per ml.

There is a full description of the precautions taken in the Channel Tunnel to prevent foxes and other wild animals from using it to enter Britain, and the risk is assessed as very low. Smuggling, on the other hand, has probably increased considerably in the last few years.

There is a description of the plans drawn up by MAFF to deal with a rabies outbreak. These would be based on computer simulation models using data on fox populations, behaviour, frequency of contact and the infectivity of the virus strain.

Chapter 7 deals with policy options and risk assessment. The risk of a rabies-infected dog or cat entering the UK from Africa, Asia or the Americas is quite high, even if the animal has been vaccinated. Quarantine facilities will have to be kept open for these. The risk of a rabies-infected dog entering the UK from another EU country is now low, but the possibility must always be considered that the pet entering Britain legally was itself smuggled into the EU.

MAFF is looking with interest at the scheme introduced by Norway and Sweden in 1994, which allows entry of all healthy cats and dogs from the EU and EFTA countries if they have been shown by the Rapid Focus Fluorescence Test to have serum antibody levels of at least 0.5 IU per ml.

The BMA concludes that in order to keep rabies out of Britain, either the present system of quarantine must be retained, or a system adopted similar to the Scandinavian one, but with extra safeguards. These extra safeguards would be: facilities for additional serological testing at the port of entry in doubtful cases; identification on implanted microchips using an internationally agreed numbering system and a central register; inclusion of this number on a computerized system stored by MAFF, as an extension of their ANIMO (Animal Movements) system for livestock.

This book is well written, well illustrated and well indexed. There are Appendices on vaccine production past and present. In 140 pages it covers a lot of ground. It gives no advice to clinicians or to people dealing with stray dogs, but it sets out clearly the arguments for and against quarantine as a means of preventing the entry of rabies into Britain, and it deserves to be widely read.

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Equus caballus: On Horses and Handling

Jan May (1995). J A Allen & Co Ltd: London. 122pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 1 Lower Grosvenor Place, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0EL, UK (ISBN 0 85131 616 6). Price £15.95.

It is only in recent years that we have seen the emergence of books for horse owners that deal purely with horse handling procedures. Previously advice on 'handling' was confined to specifics, such as how to pick up a horse's foot, with very little on behavioural principles.

I therefore wholeheartedly agree with the writer's opening sentiments that on the whole 'many people are dangerously ignorant about what makes and maintains good manners in a horse'. Instead of looking at the world through the horse's eyes and handling them accordingly, many horse owners attempt to outsmart them with human thinking, often with disastrous results. How many people own or have owned a horse that is difficult to load? will not stand tied? pushes or barges? shies? rears? bucks or bolts?

Horses *are* what we make them and Jan May seeks to give the reader an insight into the horse's behaviour and will make us all better handlers, benefiting ourselves and ultimately the horse.

The book is in three parts. Part one deals with the language of the horse; part two, hands on experience; and part three is a guide to curing problems.

Part one – the language of the horse begins with an outline of the basic behavioural characteristics of the horse. It is by no means a comprehensive explanation but does highlight the most important principles, particularly as they relate to handling. The section then goes on to describe how to 'read' the horse through its body language. This is an important skill to learn since it is the only way in which the horse can communicate his moods, feelings and reactions to us. Finally the writer deals with fear and motivation in the horse and I found this section particularly readable. Three points come across. Firstly, that cruelty, pain and abuse have no place in the training of any horse, and invariably when this approach is taken a 'problem' animal will result. Secondly, it is the 'thinking' horseman that gets results – 'There is nothing casual or vague about their manner when around horses. They display an