

reason alone, I believe this book should be on the shelves of every practice, behavioural or otherwise.

The clinical applications section is useful, but obviously the concern with tables listing herbs for different indications is that the reckless reader will try to become an instant herbal practitioner, without the necessary underpinning knowledge. This is clearly something which the author is at pains to discourage with numerous warnings concerning the need for an associated behaviour modification plan. Similar concerns could apply to the flow charts which deal with common behaviour problems, but I believe these charts may actually help many general practitioners develop more of an interest in veterinary behavioural medicine and would like to see them reproduced in more general texts. Only when mainstream practice recognises that the diagnostic skills used here are transferable, will they perhaps see behavioural medicine as a development opportunity for their practice, rather than something best left to 'specialists' or 'outsiders'. Only then will clients and their pets perhaps also get the care they desire and deserve for good welfare.

In conclusion I think this is an excellent reference text, which I would have no hesitation in recommending to every small animal practitioner and I think it will go a long way towards placing this discipline in a more mainstream scientific context where it deserves to be.

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Livestock Production and Society

Edited by R Geers and F Madec (2006). Published by Wageningen Academic Publishers, The Netherlands. 310 pp Hardback (ISBN 9076998892) Price €65.

With such an ambitious title, this book promises much but what does it offer to the readers of *Animal Welfare*? The book attempts to show how an old-fashioned scientific society that had lost its way in the modern biotechnological world can be renewed and light a new path that will appeal to many who are hesitant about some of the trends taken by modern livestock farming.

This book is the (edited) proceedings of part of the 2004 Conference of the International Society of Animal Hygiene, a peculiarly European scientific society that has belatedly reminded us that there is more to sustainable livestock farming than the latest fashion in molecular biology.

Hygiene – such a useful and long-forgotten Victorian word that the dictionary defines as the science dealing with the preservation of health – lies at the heart of the reinvigorated Society and is exemplified by its new logo, “promoting animal health, animal welfare, biosecurity, environmental protection and the sustainability of animal husbandry”. Although a mouthful, these worthy subjects together encompass many of the new goals of policy-makers in Europe, especially with the emphasis on the environment. In re-establishing the Society, its Executive Board has shaken up the old order, agreed a new constitution, appointed new officers, and sent a strong message that adherence to the principles of good, old-fashioned animal husbandry can provide a way forward for livestock farming in the 21st Century. I'm sure we wish the Board well in its ambitious desire to bring together the myriad of disciplines needed to understand and develop the farming systems of the future.

Although this book has been 'edited', most of the chapters make poor reading and the editors should have been much stricter with their authors. Some of the chapters on EU regulations and environmental protection will be of little interest to the welfare specialist while those that cover our subject are, in the main, pedestrian. Six (out of twenty) chapters cover common-or-garden topics in farm animal welfare, such as ethics, welfare evaluation and “animal welfare aspects of pigs, poultry and dairy cows”, the latter essentially comprising brief reviews of housing, transport and slaughter. Whole books are devoted to these subjects nowadays and will be much more informative than these somewhat simplistic texts that lack authority. However, I did enjoy the most readable chapter by Guy and Edwards on alternative production systems, which analyses the various attempts that have been made to develop novel systems of husbandry for pigs, cows and poultry.

In short, while this book fails to live up to the title's promise, you may be sufficiently intrigued by the new-look ISAH to acquire it for your library. However, I, for one, would advise you to wait awhile until the ISAH has established itself in its new niche, which I hope it will occupy with success.

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