

alertness and confidence born of knowing they will reach their stated goal. This involves kindness too, and these skills always produce the same result, an obedient horse displaying a willingness to oblige.' Finally Jan May points out the other extreme, which in my experience is all too common, that is the overly sensitive or emotional horse owner who fails to give the horse the boundaries of correct conduct. In these cases the horse invariably takes control and, because of fear and inexperience on the handler's part, rapidly develops into a 'problem' animal.

Part two – hands on experience deals mainly with the effective use of the so-called 'war bridle', the handling of the foal and other essentials such as picking up feet, leading, lungeing and loading. This is good background reading for any horse owner and I believe that most people would learn from it. Putting the ideas explained into practice, however, would demand not only a thorough comprehension of all the basic principles that are described but also the necessary practical skills and ability.

Part three – a guide to curing problems starts with a cautionary note 'If you do feel worried about trying any of these methods yourself it is strongly recommended that you employ someone who is thoroughly experienced in horse handling'. When you read the detail of the suggested 'cures' it is clear that many of the practices should not be attempted by the novice. Jan May obviously has a great deal of experience handling problem horses, however, I believe many of the techniques explained within this section are well beyond the scope of the average owner.

All in all this is a very readable book which all horse owners will learn from. There is little doubt that the horse's welfare will benefit from people learning more about how they should handle their animals, but perhaps the most important message is that 'Horses *are* what we make them'. If at the very least after reading this book owners realize they lack the confidence and ability to teach basic skills to the horse, and are encouraged to seek help from professional trainers, then horse welfare will have benefited.

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Restraint and Handling of Wild and Domestic Animals, 2nd Edition

Murray E Fowler (1995). Iowa State University Press: Ames. 383pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 2121 S State Avenue, Ames IA 50014, USA (ISBN 0 8138 1892 3). Price US\$64.95.

In his preface to this second edition, the author mentions that he has utilized his '5 Ps' formula for restraint procedures (namely *Success = Plan + Prepare + Practise + Produce + Persist*) in all facets of his life. This book is strong supporting evidence that this is so. It is carefully considered, well researched, painstakingly prepared, and an excellent book. It describes techniques for physical and chemical restraint of a wide range of domestic and non-domestic species. The great strength of the book is the wealth of information it provides on physical restraint techniques. Although valuable information is included also on suitable chemical agents and doses for various taxa, the coverage of chemical restraint is relatively brief.

Introductory chapters cover tools, rope work, principles of chemical restraint, and also such matters as stress and potential medical problems during restraint. The following sections cover techniques on a taxa by taxa or group by group basis for domestic and wild animals. Throughout, Professor Fowler's rigorous and thorough approach is apparent. Starting with the relevant underlying principles, he works methodically through each subject. It is well and clearly written and, in providing a great deal of valuable practical information, he reveals the remarkable extent of his personal experience with and thinking on the many challenges in this field. Points and techniques discussed in the text are very well illustrated with relevant drawings and photographs.

Although some of the sections in this second edition have been updated considerably – reflecting developments in the handling of some non-domesticated species – those concerning domesticated animals appear to be largely unchanged. However, information on suitable chemical agents and doses for chemical restraint have been revised throughout.

It was one of the author's aims when publishing the first edition of this book to promote humane handling of domesticated and wild animals, through understanding the principles of the tools and techniques available and the skill in their use. I am sure that the book was a success in this respect and hope, for the same reason, that this new edition will be used widely around the world. It is a very interesting and informative book and I recommend it to all animal handlers.

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