

successful in changing attitudes, for the benefit of farm animals and those who care for them. In particular, I hope that society as a whole and animal rights campaigners in particular come to appreciate that people are greater determinants of animal welfare than systems.

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### **Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians and Animal Scientists, Fifth Edition**

KA Houpt (2011). Published by Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014-8300, USA. 416 pp Hardback (ISBN 978-0-8138-1676-0). Price £54.99, CAD\$95.99, US\$79.99, €71.90.

Previous editions of this book will be familiar to many of you as they have graced countless library shelves, in vet schools and institutions offering animal science education, since the first edition was published in 1982. In the six years since the fourth edition of Katherine Houpt's comprehensive guide to domestic animal behaviour was published, the field of animal behaviour has progressed considerably. This is largely reflected in the recently published fifth edition, most notably by the addition of a new chapter on 'Behavioural genetics'.

This book follows the same format as previous editions. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect of animal behaviour, including communication, maternal behaviour, and aggression and social structure. All chapters open with a short overview of the subjects covered and this is followed by a general introduction to the behaviour under focus. The species-specific behaviour of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, cats and dogs are then considered in turn. Formatting the book in this manner serves to highlight the similarities and differences between the behaviour of the seven species the book encompasses. Anyone reading the book chapter-by-chapter rather than dipping in and out cannot help but make comparisons between species and promoting this more active reading style is a real strength of this book. As well as the usual behavioural descriptions that form part of texts on domestic animal behaviour, the book also includes more unusual information on each species which grasps the reader's interest and attention — for example, the tendency of sows to avoid eating blue food and that goats rival dogs in their response to human pointing and gazing gestures. There is some variation between species in the depth of discussion and content within each chapter, reflecting the differences in the quantity and focus of behavioural research undertaken on each of these domestic species. However, these differences are interesting in themselves as they raise questions for the reader about how the behaviour of another species would compare in that situation. Each chapter is well referenced and while some of the sources cited and figures used are slightly dated they more than adequately support the chapter content.

While the preface of the fourth edition of *Domestic Animal Behaviour* contains the caveat that welfare, though

important, is not directly covered within this publication, there is no similar qualification in the fifth edition. Consequently, reading the book as a welfare scientist leaves one with the feeling that some important issues have either not been raised or addressed. Although I agree with the author that there are a considerable number of welfare-focused publications available which have the scope to provide more discussion on the subject, I feel that the possible causes and welfare implications of some of the behaviours, and the ways of preventing them, that are discussed in the book warrants at least an acknowledgement, even if a full discussion is not considered appropriate in a book primarily focused on behaviour.

The content of chapters 1–8 is rather outdated in places, particularly concerning ways of tackling aggressive behaviour and management-derived problems, such as non-nutritional inter-suckling in calves. Applying serrated rings to the noses of calves to deter inter-calf suckling may be a practice accepted in the industry but in the context of a veterinary/animal science textbook, their use should surely be questioned? The suggested 'drastic treatment programme' for aggressive horses and cats (keeping them isolated in the dark with the human their only source of food, light and companionship) seems not only draconian but an ill-advised addition to a text commonly read by students, as the potential dangers of such a treatment for the human (especially when conducted on horses, are not addressed). The welfare consequences of such actions for the animals concerned are not discussed either and again this is particularly worrying considering that this book is used as a reference tool for vets and students. It is important to encourage anyone working with animals to consider the consequences of their actions for the animals concerned and this is sadly lacking in the book. Many of the behaviours covered may be derived from inappropriate management practices and this also needs to be recognised within the text.

The issue of dominance in relation to unwanted behaviour in horses and companion animals features conspicuously in the chapter on 'Aggression and social structure'. The concept of dominance in relation to human-animal interactions is increasingly being questioned and no longer accepted in many circles. Using force or restraint to gain dominance over an animal is mentioned within the text for cats and horses, either through strapping up the forelimb (horses) or by holding the animal down for a few minutes a day (cats). As for previous behaviours, the risks and welfare consequences of these actions are not considered. Future editions of this book would greatly benefit from a thorough revision of these early chapters in light of the progression in thinking in the field of animal behaviour and human-animal interactions.

Chapter 9 ('Miscellaneous behavioural disorders') is largely more contemporary in the described approaches to addressing unwanted behaviour than previous chapters. It is formatted slightly differently to the previous chapters in that it does not begin with a short summary or general introduction. Instead, the most commonly encountered

behavioural disorders of each species are briefly considered, with the reader being referred to veterinary clinical behaviour textbooks for information on dealing with the problems of the companion species. Information on the welfare implications of the various problems covered and the actions that can be taken to resolve them would be a valuable addition to this chapter. Again, the author reports the various actions one may take to address a behavioural problem without offering much in the way of guidance on the implications these actions may have for the animal. While this impartiality is admirable, some of the techniques described in this chapter, such as using cribbing collars or surgery to prevent crib-biting in horses, are now considered inappropriate. In many cases Houpt does recommend changes to the animal's environment or diet but this could be given more emphasis.

The new chapter on 'Behavioural genetics' is a topical and important addition to the book. Covering sex and breed differences in behaviour, temperament testing, and laterality or handedness in animals, it reviews much of the research undertaken in these areas on each species to date. The section on laterality or handedness would have greatly benefited from further expansion and a detailed explanation of the implications of laterality in domestic animals. As it stands, it is difficult for the naïve reader to see the significance of this section as no background information is given to explain how laterality may be related to the animal's behaviour. Rogers' (2010) review of the relevance of lateralisation for animal welfare would have been a valuable addition to this section, helping to put the information presented into context and enabling the reader to see how consideration of laterality may be important. This is a growing field and deserves more comprehensive coverage than that given in this book. Likewise, hair whorls are considered very briefly and without any background on why they are covered in a book on animal behaviour, which again may leave the naïve reader a little uncertain of why this information is included.

Overall, the fifth edition of Houpt's *Domestic Animal Behaviour* remains a valuable guide to the fundamental behaviour of seven of the most common domestic species and a useful addition to any reference library. However, the book would benefit substantially from a greater acknowledgment of the welfare implications of some behaviours, and the actions taken to address them, as well as some sizable revisions to bring it in line with current thinking.

### Reference

Rogers LJ 2010 Relevance of brain and behavioural lateralisation to animal welfare. *Applied Animal Behavioural Science* 127: 1-11

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### **Animal Rights: What Everyone Needs to Know**

P Waldau (2011). Published by Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, 10016, USA. 236 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-0-19-973997-4). Price US\$16.95.

What does everyone need to know about animal rights? Perhaps the first thing is what the term 'animal rights' means. Does it mean different things in different contexts? If so, what and where? Equally important, perhaps, is what the term does not mean. Can we misuse the term erroneously or misleadingly? If so, how and when? Once we know these, perhaps we then turn to other facts. Where did animal rights come from? How have they changed? What is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare, and what do 'animal rights' mean for animal welfare? And what, exactly, do animal rights imply?

These questions and others are answered in this informative and educational book. Paul Waldau has a long and celebrated history of interdisciplinary and international work. This background means the book looks at animal rights from many angles, including: historical (chapter 4); legal (chapter 5); political (chapter 6); social (chapter 7); educational and professional (chapter 8) and scientific (chapters 2 and 9). It also gives the book an excellent international flavour (although there is a prevalence of the USA's record that is unfortunately legitimate). Indeed, the penultimate chapter lists significant people in the history of the animal rights movement, and specifically includes several personalities from China, India and Australasia.

The question of what 'animal rights' means is immediately tackled in the first chapter. In its 'purest' form, the term animal rights is taken to mean that non-human members of our taxonomic kingdom have some legitimate *claim* to something, such as freedom or life. In the simplest (and perhaps most consistent) accounts, these claims should be absolutely respected, whatever the advantages others could obtain if they were breached. In more complex (and perhaps more 'fudging') accounts, rights are not absolute, but can sometimes be compared, or even weighed up and offset. But more often, as this book highlights, 'animal rights' is often used as a simple 'place-holder' either referring to the general discussion of animal ethics, or describing the collection of ethical views that animals have some moral status. This can include the fields of 'animal activism' and even animal welfare.

Another distinction that Dr Waldau usefully highlights is the distinction between legal and moral animal rights. These multiple meanings are dangerous. Subtle 'slippage' between meanings can allow critics to disparage 'animal rights' as a movement by lampooning and refuting 'animal rights' as an extreme view. For example, Waldau highlights how some cartoon a moral 'animal rights' position that affords animals the same rights as humans, and then use this to argue against animals having any legal protection.