

policy of AATA to develop and promote, in collaboration with the industry, the best means of accomplishing these goals.”

The book has chapters focussing on each species along with chapters on government regulations, specific requirements for each county, lists of border inspection points and documentation requirements. The section on the responsibilities of the consignor and the people transporting the animals is very good. Clear-cut guidelines, where people are held accountable, help to prevent problems that can result in death, loss of or injury to animals.

The next section contains useful charts for animal stocking densities in vehicles. Some of the worse animal welfare problems occur when a vehicle or a container is overloaded. The last section of the book contains recommendations and guidelines for each species. Some of these guidelines are more useful than others, the different species being covered by various different authors. The following species are covered: cattle, pigs, horses, dogs, cats, deer, fish, goats, ostriches, sheep, camelids, poultry and rabbits. The best guidelines have specific recommendations that transporters can easily follow, such as the guideline that states “all pigs should be able to lie down at the same time without being on top of each other”. Some guidelines are too vague to be useful, with words such as “suitable” or “adequate” being used. Adequate welfare to one person may be considered poor to others. Vague guidelines will be interpreted differently by different people.

This book is not intended to be a complete guide for livestock handling and transport. It summarises basic transport guidelines and it contains vital information on the laws and documentation that are essential for trouble-free international shipments. It will be a useful reference for airlines, trucking companies and shipping lines. People who are auditing animal welfare should also read this book. However, the book would not be particularly useful for training people how to handle animals; other publications have better information on such training.

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### ***Parasitic Diseases of Wild Mammals, 2nd Edition***

Edited by W M Samuel, M J Pybus and A A Kocan (2001). Published by Manson Publishing Ltd, 73 Corringham Road, London NW11 7DL, UK. E-mail: manson@man-pub.demon.co.uk. 559 pp. Hardback (ISBN 1 84076 009 5). Price £188.00.

A trip by rail from London to Liverpool and back provided an ideal opportunity to review this multi-author book. It is a heavyweight scholarly work with 559 tightly packed pages but, as the train was 1½ hours late in reaching its destination in both directions, there was ample time to read selected sections and chapters and to skim through the rest. Fortunately, this book abounds with fascinating information and insights into five ectoparasite, ten helminth and nine protozoal groups, so it held my attention for the entire journey. It would be misleading if I were to give the impression that this is ‘a good read’ as it is primarily intended as a reference work. Consequently, most chapters are similarly constructed, being typically subdivided into life history, epizootiology, clinical signs, pathology, diagnosis, immunity, domestic animal concerns, public health concerns and management implications. This arrangement is ideal for those seeking information on specific aspects of a parasitic infection but tends to produce annoying repetition for those reading a whole chapter. It is also less convenient for those seeking information on parasitic diseases of a particular host species although, in this case, the index was helpful in locating scattered host-related

information. Extensive use is made of tables — some several pages long — listing records of parasites, their hosts, prevalence and intensity of infection, geographical distribution, habitat, etc. Readers will also find the reference lists at the end of each chapter particularly useful as they are arranged and subdivided according to topic.

The tables and references exemplify the changes that have occurred since the first edition was published 30 years ago. The latter was primarily concerned with documenting the presence and identity of each parasite, but these data are now largely relegated to tabular form to make way for the recent explosion in information generated by integrated multi-disciplinary studies into the role of parasitic disease in natural ecosystems and the way in which this may be modified by human intervention or climate change. The older concept that parasites in nature are so well adapted that they seldom cause disease is challenged, as many are now known to be capable of inducing disease, suffering and even death in particular circumstances. Some chapters are entirely factual while others include more philosophical passages, such as consideration of feedback linkages between hosts, parasites and habitat stability. The examples quoted to illustrate particular points are often intriguing, such as how an increase in the numbers of raccoons in parts of north-eastern America has led to a catastrophic decline in the population of the Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*). The latter caches raccoon faeces, which provide a rich source of undigested seeds. Unfortunately, they also contain eggs of a nematode parasite, *Baylisascaris procyonis*, which inhabits the raccoon's intestine. Consequently, the woodrats succumb to neural disease caused by *Baylisascaris* larvae migrating through their body tissues.

I can recommend this book to veterinary and medical parasitologists, as well as to wildlife experts, as the text impacts on all these specialities. The book provides a convenient overview of the general biology of each parasitic group and a wealth of information on specific parasites and the diseases they cause. There are also up-to-date reviews of important and topical ecological and applied issues such as *Trichinella* genotypes and the host specificity of *Giardia*. My main criticism is that many chapters, although not all, are parochial in their outlook, being concerned exclusively or predominantly with North America. Nevertheless, this long-overdue second edition is a very welcome addition to my bookshelf. Let us hope that by the time the third edition appears, rail travel between London and Liverpool will be so fast and reliable that a longer journey will be required for the pleasurable task of reviewing it.

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***Infectious Diseases of Wild Mammals, 3rd Edition***

Edited by E S Williams and I K Barker (2001). Published by Manson Publishing, 73 Corringham Road, London NW11 7DL, UK. E-mail: [manson@man-pub.demon.co.uk](mailto:manson@man-pub.demon.co.uk). 558 pp. Hardback (ISBN 1 84076 0052). Price £75.00.

There is a growing awareness of the influence of infectious diseases on populations of wild animals and an increasing recognition that the prevalence and incidence of these diseases may be affected by human activities (eg the movement of animals from one place to another). Those infectious diseases that cause high morbidity and mortality and potentially protracted illness can result in considerable pain and distress. Thus, by introducing novel infectious agents to new populations, or by influencing the ecology of infectious agents in some other way, humans can give rise to a serious and persistent welfare problem that is not easily