

Book Reviews

Horse Behaviour and Welfare: EAAP Publication No 112

Edited by M Hausberger, E Sondergaard and W Martin-Rosset (2007). Published by Wageningen Academic Publishers, PO Box 200, NL-6700 AE Wageningen, The Netherlands. 152 pp Paperback (ISBN 0071-2477). Price €47, US\$63.

It is interesting to see that the European Association for Animal Production has what is described by the editors as a 'horse commission'. There is debate about whether the horse should be considered a production animal. While many horse breeders would support this, in the hope of receiving government subsidies, others might see it as a step in the wrong direction, since it smacks of objectifying the horse. The key roles of the horse in human activity changed tremendously during the 20th century but, because of the variety of uses horses are now put to, their position is rather ambivalent. While in some countries horse-meat production retains importance, the overarching fields in which horses are now used include recreational and social purposes, breeding, sport and competition. Because they are not commonly regarded as production animals, horses are more often these days described as a 'companion animal species'. Unfortunately, they do not fit terribly well into this category either, since they do not share living space with humans as do true companion animals such as cats, dogs and caged birds. In effect, their contact with humans is largely restricted to being groomed, fed and ridden.

The special issue that emerged from the EAAP 57th annual meeting focuses on temperament, early experience, social management and 'equine behaviour welfare'. A total of 13 papers appear in this publication and, while some are reviews, others are original research reports and still others offer conceptual plans. The emphasis is on stable management, horse husbandry and behavioural genetics, rather than the ridden horse.

Unfortunately, the standards of English and editorial input are variable. For example, one editor's name is misspelled on the cover and one of the papers bears the somewhat obscure title: 'Three-dimensional design of a horse stud like better toll for technical choices of housing and welfare'.

The appeal of the publication will be chiefly to academicians rather than practitioners. In the short-term at least, its animal welfare implications are likely to be minimal because it will take years for the information it contains to filter through to end-users. It would be good to see special issues of this sort follow the precedent set by *Animal Welfare* which requires authors to stipulate the welfare implications of their work. This would broaden the appeal of the publication and help to ensure that more copies are read by owners, riding coaches and equine veterinarians. This would, in turn, help owners to see how inappropriate management may compromise not just the horse's welfare but its ability to be productive as breeder, companion, performer and athlete.

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In Defense of Dolphins: The New Moral Frontier

TI White (2007). Published by Blackwell Publishing, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK. 229 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-1-4051-5779-7). Price £12.99.

This thought-provoking book has been published as part of a series on public philosophy. The author, TI White, is actually a philosophy professor specialising in business ethics, but became interested in dolphins when trying to find a way to convey the idea of 'personhood' to students two decades ago. In this book, White discusses the philosophy of personhood rather than being human. He outlines a list of the elements that defines a 'person' (eg a being who is aware, has a sense of self, has emotions etc), and puts forward a series of arguments to suggest that dolphins could be classified as non-human 'persons'.

The first chapter introduces the philosophical arguments the author aims to address regarding the nature of dolphins and whether or not the current treatment of dolphins is ethically justifiable. The following chapters cover the basic anatomy and physiology of dolphins, evidence for dolphin consciousness and awareness, studies on dolphin problem-solving abilities and language use, and the social structure of dolphin groups. White concludes the book by contending that dolphins are intelligent, self-aware and highly social beings that could be considered as 'persons'. Consequently, he asserts that individual dolphins are potentially deserving of basic 'person' rights, and that present practices of fishing and dolphin keeping could be in contravention of these.

As part of a public series, the book is aimed at a general readership, and thus does not go into great scientific detail but, as such, is very readable and well laid out. White is not a dolphin specialist, but has acquired a great deal of knowledge and experience in the subject during his twenty-year fascination with it. However, many of the examples he uses to support his conclusions are anecdotal, and, although interesting, sometimes it seems too much is inferred from them. Evidence for emotions in dolphins, for example, is provided largely by anecdote, and an account which discusses instances of dolphins displaying grief is open to alternative interpretation. However, it is impossible to conduct large scale experiments on dolphins and White has obtained all his information from dolphin scientists and those who work closely with dolphins.

The author explains in his preface that he is limited to the discussion of dolphins, and therefore other non-humans are not examined. Although this is understandable, in some instances examples of the behaviour and abilities of other animals would possibly shed a different light on those of dolphins. For instance, dolphins demonstrate co-operative fishing and use different fishing tactics in different circumstances and White uses this to indicate problem-solving abilities and the ability of dolphins to choose their actions. Evidence that dolphins assume specific roles whilst fishing co-operatively is suggested to show communica-

tive ability and even patience, self-restraint and trust. A general reader, however, may not be aware that many animals co-operate when finding food, and use different techniques according to the situation, including some species of fish (in the case of yellowtails [*Seriola lalandei*] it has been reported that specific roles are taken on during hunting, just as with dolphins). The realisation that the abilities demonstrated by dolphins are perhaps not so unique could well affect someone's views.

Despite these reservations, this remains an interesting read which raises some important issues regarding the way we view other species. Certainly, we should think carefully about how we treat animals we see as being intelligent and apply ethical and humane treatment not just to dolphins but also to other species that we affect directly or indirectly.

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Introduction to Veterinary and Comparative Forensic Medicine

JE Cooper and ME Cooper (2007). Published by Blackwell Publishing, Abingdon, Oxford OX14 4YN, UK. 415 pp Hardback (ISBN 978-1-4051-1101-0). Price £59.99.

The authors' motivation to write this book, as revealed in the preface, came from their awareness of how badly veterinarians need to have easily-accessible information regarding "the principles and practice of forensic science and its applicability to work with animals". It is clear that the authors kept this objective in mind and achieved their goal with the publication of *Introduction to Veterinary and Comparative Forensic Medicine*.

The authors, JE Cooper and ME Cooper, are both from the UK. This well-travelled and internationally-renowned couple definitely make the perfect team to produce a book on veterinary forensic science. John is a veterinary surgeon and a recognised expert in the wide international arena of comparative medicine, wildlife and exotic pets, and forensic science. Margaret is a lawyer, dedicated to the field of conservation and animal-related issues and how these relate to the law. Their lifetime experience and dedication to work on forensics and wildlife is reflected in the pages of this text.

This book is directed primarily at veterinarians and I would also strongly recommend it to veterinary students as it will make them aware of their potential role, later in life, if ever called upon to give evidence on investigations on cases of crime, animal welfare and abuse or cruelty. *Introduction to Veterinary and Comparative Forensic Medicine* will also appeal to the non-specialist, including anyone with an interest in animal welfare. The uncomplicated language, with rare use of technical jargon, the easy flow of text, the short sections and the synthesis of information in tables and figures — adding clarity to the interrelation of concepts — make this book easily comprehensible.

The information in the book is biased, to a certain extent, towards examples and situations pertinent to the UK. For

example, there are references to UK insurance rules, the Guide to Professional Conduct of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and UK laws. However, international references and examples are not missing. Indeed, plenty of discussion is dedicated to particular situations, cultures, ways of thinking and attitudes towards animals in many parts of the world. The efforts to appeal to international readers are reflected in the unusual feature of including tables with examples of different meanings, spellings and medical terminology in UK/European and American English.

The book is well constructed and clearly printed. The front cover has an elegant design of earth-tone coloured photographs that clearly imply detective and forensic work. The general outline includes 13 chapters organised into parts A (Introduction), B (Welfare and conservation) and C (Methodology). Seven appendices constitute part D, a collection of various types of information and case studies. Black and white photographs, mostly 50 mm by 70 mm, are numerous and fulfil the purpose of adorning the pages. Many of them, however, are not really necessary or informative. Several photographs are shown twice, in black and white in the text and then again, the same photograph, in colour plates. These colour plates are more selective and include 48 good quality and informative photographs. A few cartoons, which are really good fun, are also included in the text. Of great value is the comprehensive list of international references, which is extremely up-to-date and also includes items published centuries ago. It contains nearly 1,000 publications and certainly provides the reader with the necessary tools to find information on a variety of topics related to forensic medicine and animal welfare. The index of the book is complete and well organised.

In part A, the authors introduce and define forensic medicine. Multidisciplinary aspects and the varied applications, including non-legal aspects, are addressed. Chapter 1 deals mostly with human forensics, while chapter 2 delivers a mixture of concepts and features that reveal the wide spectrum of applications of forensic medicine including, environmental, conservation and animal welfare. UFAW is mentioned (p 45) as one of the first organisations to study the welfare implications of the approach of different religions to animals.

Animal welfare remains in focus throughout the book and a section explains animal welfare legislation in general terms (pp 51–53). Furthermore, the start of chapter 3, on animal law, quotes: "No man shall exercise any Tyranny or Cruelty towards any brute Creature which are usuallie kept for man's use", from The Bodie of Liberties, Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1641.

Part B consists of two chapters dealing with animal welfare and conservation, and wildlife crime. The animal welfare chapter defines and elaborates upon the subjects of pain and stress and, briefly, the terms fear, shock and suffering. It also addresses in general terms: the difficulties of determining what constitutes unnecessary suffering, public attitudes towards animals, attitudes to animal welfare, investigation of welfare cases, welfare of wildlife and of animals kept and