

subject 'raw'. Readers might find some chapters difficult to follow without some background reading. The chapter by R G Pettit of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF, now DEFRA; p 584) is a particularly useful starting point and, in addition, the chapters on the legislative requirement for the identification and traceability of farm animals within the European Union (p 437) and on animal traceability across national frontiers (p 406) provide useful background information.

There are several excellent chapters on the different techniques used in animal and animal-product tracing, from marking systems used in traditional pastoral systems, through the commonly used paper systems, to electronic systems and their potential for expansion, and the biological identification systems of the future. Useful, practical examples of systems operating in many countries throughout the world are described. There is emphasis from several authors on the global nature of the animal-use industry and the food industry in particular, and thus the necessity to create systems whereby information can be transmitted easily and effectively between countries. Systems are described that have the potential to achieve the automated registration of animals and animal products and the transfer of data throughout the globe.

The review contains a large amount of information, both in the text and in the references, much of which is currently difficult to find and has been impossible until now to access from a single source. As a reference for those setting up, making use of and verifying the effectiveness of traceability systems, *Traceability of Animals and Animal Products* is an important document to have on the shelf. As a general informative text, it has the potential to make an important contribution in terms of animal welfare, and it complements the current work that FAWC are undertaking on the assessment of farm assurance schemes. FAWC's interim report recognises that assurance can only achieve real improvements in animal welfare if *all* animals associated with *all* the products we eat are assured for *all* of their lives. To achieve this, we need to understand and embrace traceability technology on a global scale.

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Pre-Veterinary Nursing Textbook

Edited by J Masters and C Bowden (2001). Published by Butterworth-Heinemann in association with the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA). Obtainable from Heinemann Publishers Oxford, P O Box 382, Halley Court, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8RU, UK. 275 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 7506 4694 2). Price £29.99.

This book is essential for any pre-veterinary nursing student or any veterinary practice that has students, or is likely in the future to have them. The book is set out in a readable format, dealing with all aspects of basic biology, anatomy and physiology, canine and feline husbandry, exotics, basic nursing skills, first aid, and reception skills. Although only in black and white, the drawings are impressive. The bullet points provide a quick reference guide to various subject areas. The book can be used as an adjunct to course work, or as a revision aid.

Key points of the book include: it is the first textbook written specifically for pre-veterinary nursing students; it is written by experienced contributors who are familiar with

the pre-veterinary nursing syllabus; each chapter has key learning objectives; it contains excellent line diagrams to aid in the recognition of equipment and anatomical parts.

Unfortunately, the book has not covered two of the key areas that are now being incorporated into the qualification: English and Maths. It is unfortunate that a book published in 2001 has not been able to incorporate the major changes that have happened within the syllabus. Hopefully, this will be considered in a future edition of the book. It would have been useful to include a glossary or appendix of key terms that the student may not be familiar with, for quick reference, at the back of the book.

In conclusion, this book offers a fair representation of the pre-veterinary nursing syllabus and will certainly be a useful aid for students in training.

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