

species, such as fancy pigs, primates, sugar gliders, prairie dogs, African pygmy hedgehogs, short-tailed opossum, degus and duprasi.

The layout makes information easy to find and useful facts are gathered into handy tables. This edition contains over 200 colour illustrations, which are used to good effect to depict different species, clinical conditions and surgical techniques. Practical techniques such as blood sampling are well described and also often illustrated. In all, 30 international authors have contributed to this manual, under the editorial guidance of Sharon Redrobe and Anna Meredith. Each one has had extensive experience in their field and is well respected.

The downside to this book is that no one volume can cover all the information on exotic pets that the practitioner needs. It is often frustrating to find the subject you are looking for and then discover that very little information is present. For instance, there is a section on post-hibernation anorexia in tortoises. It describes the aetiological aspects of this condition but makes no mention of treatment protocols or diagnostic tests that can be used to investigate the severity of the problem. Likewise, there is no mention in that section of other manifestations of diseases that occur during hibernation, such as blindness. To compensate for problems such as this, there is an extensive reference list at the end of each chapter to guide the reader to more detailed information when needed.

Throughout this edition of the manual there is far more emphasis on the welfare problems that can be caused by incorrect husbandry, lack of enrichment and incorrect social grouping. For instance, Anna Meredith in her chapter on chipmunks highlights that “they remain essentially wild in captivity and their welfare can be severely compromised if their behavioural needs are not met”. Although this is not rocket science, it gets the point across to the busy practitioner or student who may be more preoccupied with looking for an infectious agent as the cause of the animal’s problems. A chapter on imaging weighs up the advantages and disadvantages of chemically immobilising the patient in order to provide optimal positioning and comply with health and safety guidelines. The welfare of the animal is considered and compromises are made between decreased radiographic quality and improved animal welfare. The chapter on primates emphasises the need to return a social primate to its group as soon as possible after an anaesthetic for its psychological wellbeing.

This book is a huge improvement on the second and third editions of the BSAVA manual of exotic pets. As the wealth and breadth of our knowledge of these animals increases, it becomes more and more difficult to sift out the most pertinent information and lay it out in a way that can be easily found and understood. I think that the authors and editors have succeeded in doing this and have provided the profession with an excellent overview of ‘exotic pets’. However, readers wanting more detailed information on a particular species will be disappointed if they are looking to this book to provide it.

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***The Philosophy and Practice of Wildlife Management, 3rd Edition***

F F Gilbert and D G Dodds (2001). Published by Krieger Publishing Company, PO Box 9542, Melbourne, Florida 32902-9542, USA. Distributed by The Eurospan Group, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU, UK. 370 pp. Hardback (ISBN 1 57524 051 3). Price \$34.50.

This is a revised version of a textbook mainly oriented to undergraduate students from North America. Canadian and American wildlife issues are described, and the diverse philosophies

and practices implemented on both public and private lands are analysed. The book includes chapters dealing specifically with man and wildlife, principles of wildlife biology, endangered species, species management, environmental impact assessment, socioeconomic issues, management approaches, legislation, and jurisdiction. The authors recognise the immense challenges that wildlife biologists must overcome in society as the spokespeople for wildlife, the custodians of a variety of public interests, and as key elements in the decision-making process regarding land use. The authors also stress that in order to effectively meet this demanding role, basic knowledge of wildlife species and their biological requirements, as well as consummate skill in people management, are required.

This third edition updates the 1992 version and includes new chapters on Native American land claims and rights, wildlife resources, and the effects of parasites and diseases on wildlife populations (mainly a list of diseases with brief descriptions). The organisation of the book is unusual in terms of how the chapters are linked together, and the overall impression is of a collection of subjects rather than a logical conceptual framework. This point is relevant, since the title of the book refers to the philosophy and practice of wildlife management. However, although the structure and organisation of the book is not the best, the authors have achieved a very precise and enjoyable account of the main ideas and examples.

The authors approach the philosophy of wildlife management by using examples combined with detailed descriptions about legislation, organisations and policies developed in North America and in some cases elsewhere. The inclusion of a chapter dedicated to environmental impact assessment provides a good introduction to the principles regarding assessing impact, but in this case with little description of examples.

The contribution of this book to the progress of wildlife management, conservation and animal welfare science is almost nonexistent. The brief mentions of animal behaviour in chapter three (describing some of the biological bases for and approaches to management), and of humane trapping in chapter nine, are not thorough enough for this book to be considered a contribution that will bridge the gap between wildlife management and animal welfare science. This is, however, a good introductory book for those who wish to know more about wildlife management practice in North America.

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### ***Equine Dentistry***

Edited by G J Baker and J Easley (1999). Published by W B Saunders, an imprint of Harcourt Brace and Company Ltd, 24–28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX, UK. Distributed by Harcourt Publishers Ltd, Foots Cray High Street, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5HP, UK. 271 pp. Hardback (ISBN 0 7020 23922). Price £63.95.

Few could argue that the well-being of horses is seriously compromised in the face of neglected oral health. During much of the twentieth century, the veterinary profession had little to be proud of in relation to the prevention and management of equine dental diseases in terms of education and clinical practice. There seemed little appetite for the physical tedium of rasping the teeth of endless rows of horses, and the subject fell into decay. The reviewer has a vivid and yet typical recollection of life as an assistant in equine practice 30 years ago, and specifically of a request from a senior partner to vaccinate 40 horses in a livery yard “and while you are there can you ‘do’ the teeth”. Approximately three hours was allowed for this dual assignment and a single blunt rusty rasp was made available!