

seemingly overwhelming amount of published material that they might possibly consult. One of the duties of writers of textbooks should be to guide students as to why this or that could and/or should be consulted, and what might be considered as back-up material that might be looked at later if the need arises.

In the first edition, the references to material quoted in each chapter was placed at the end of each chapter. In the new edition they have been incorporated into the composite References section at the end of the book. This is a welcomed change. The items identified in the various Further reading lists should, perhaps, have all been included in the References section. It would also have increased the value of the References if, after each reference in the list, there was an indication of the page or pages of the book on which it was mentioned. Also welcome are the many improved figures and the colour-plate maps.

This important, well-written and up-to-date textbook will continue to have a key role to play in many diploma and degree courses in the agricultural/animal welfare/veterinary higher education field. Its clear writing and focused contents also make it of value to some further education projects and to the progressive farmer.

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### **Knowing Your Horse: A Guide to Equine Learning, Training and Behaviour**

E Lethbridge (2009). Published by Blackwell Publishing 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX24 2DQ, UK. 208 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-1-4051-9164-7). Price £19.99, €24.90.

Emma Lethbridge has used her training and background to bridge the gap between scientific theory and applied horsemanship in her recently published book: *Knowing Your Horse: A Guide to Equine Learning, Training and Behaviour*. A passion for horses often seems to block any consideration of how emerging scientific knowledge might link into horsemanship but, in this book, the author has channelled her passion into producing a guide that is based on scientific theory but written in a way that is accessible to those without a scientific background. Emma Lethbridge's vocation to improve equine welfare has led her to combine a scientific career with a professional background in applied horsemanship. She is currently undertaking her PhD in psychology at Lincoln University but also works with animal owners to develop long-term solutions to behavioural issues in a wide range of companion species but specialising in horses and dogs.

The book provides clear explanations of the basic survival motivations behind horses' behaviour, breaking down myths of higher intelligence that are sometimes used in an attempt to rationalise abuse. The unequivocal message to the reader is that the human handling the horse is the leader/instigator and the horse is the reactor, not the other way round. Having laid the responsibility of higher intelligence upon the handler, the book provides a toolkit of ideas

and methods to support this mindset. There is a gradual introduction of key information throughout the book to ensure it is not initially overwhelming. An immense amount of thought has gone into structuring the book to explain learning and training theories in an applied format whilst continually developing the readers' knowledge. I think many readers of this book will finish the book with a clear plan of how to apply its contents to their own horsemanship and an unconscious depth of understanding of the psychology behind animal behaviour.

The author does not shy away from controversial subjects, such as punishment: these topics are covered with the same factual, unbiased approach as the rest of the book. There is clearly no agenda to promote a particular training technique; the motivation behind the book is clearly to provide knowledge so that whatever techniques are applied by the reader are adopted on the basis of informed decisions.

The book attempts to address the varying levels of readers' background knowledge by supporting complex topics with case studies that bring the examples to life. The layout of the book allows readers to be selective in whether they focus on case studies, scientific theory or suggestions on how readers may progress their own application of the book by the systemic use of dedicated presentation styles through all chapters. The style of this book is likely to engender broad appeal but, whilst it is able to provide a sound insight into the topic, it has not been written in such a way as to provide a scientific foundation for higher education students. However, this is addressed, in part, by the provision of references to core scientific papers and the list of recommended further reading provided at the end of the book. Whether the reader is looking for a single book to provide an accessible guide to the principles behind equine learning or a stepping stone into animal behaviour science, this book is essential reading.

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### **Wildlife Damage Control: Principles for the Management of Damage by Vertebrate Pests**

J Hone (2007), Published by CABI, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK. 192 pp Hardback (ISBN 978-1-84593-245-9). Price £37.50, US\$75.00, €60.00.

Wildlife comes into conflict with human and other interests in many different ways around the world. These conflicts can occur in a variety of contexts, including biodiversity, production threats to agricultural, forestry and fishery industries, and human and animal health. Approaches to resolving conflicts can be discovered independently for each context and each species. Alternatively, the best solutions can be found through understanding common general principles in the assessment and effective management of wildlife conflicts. This book is essential reading for anyone who wishes to gain insights into such common principles. It offers a rounded synthesis of the key literature regarding wildlife impacts and their management and offers a guiding framework for assessing and managing these impacts. This it