

watching a faithful animal, which has done much to support their family, suffer in its final days, or weeks, of life.

The chapter on dentistry brings this topic up-to-date in the context of working equids. Equine dentistry in Europe and North America has developed significantly these past two decades. This, though, is beyond the economic means of most working equid owners, as even basic routine treatment advocated in current dental textbooks, are often dependent on expensive motorised equipment being available. Hence, the chapter focuses on areas where examination, and the use of manual equipment, can be used under local conditions to achieve good results.

Case studies found throughout the book bring context and help define the style of this text as firmly rooted in practical applications. These case studies, along with examples in the main text illustrating context, are very informative for those not familiar with the conditions that many working equids are exposed to. For example, working equids in many parts of the world are frequently subjected to malpractices mentioned in the text, such as nose slitting, use of setons or firing. These are undertaken usually due to a lack of understanding, or access to alternatives, which this manual is there to promote and thereby address the suffering associated with malpractices.

Those new to treating equids will find the chapter on clinical techniques particularly useful. In many countries where working equids predominate, undergraduate training offers few opportunities to learn basic practical techniques. This book clearly sets out good practice, illustrated by diagrams. Along with the chapter on understanding behaviour this would, if the advice offered is followed, go a long way to helping reduce the harsh handling that equids are frequently subjected to, when they are examined and treated.

A comprehensive range of relevant clinical conditions are discussed in this book. The chapters are divided according to the main body systems: gastrointestinal, respiratory system, urinary and reproductive systems, musculoskeletal integument and neurological. They focus on common conditions, in a clear style which puts across the salient points in diagnosis, treatment and optimising welfare from a practical perspective.

Other chapters cover diseases of foals and parasitology. Again, they give clear, direct information on these conditions, addressing the frequently seen problems of mistreatment.

The book is well-referenced, guiding the reader to up-to-date and relevant information relevant to working equines, and so it will be a good starting point, particularly for students, to investigate the areas in more detail.

In conclusion, this book is one of the most comprehensive and practical resources for veterinary care and improving the welfare for working equids. It is an important book, and therefore highly recommended, for all veterinarians, and associated professionals that are involved with delivering healthcare services for working equids.

Moreover, this book is relevant to veterinarians not directly involved with working equids. Animal welfare is a global social issue, and this book provides veterinarians and others with valuable insight into the realities of conditions still

experienced by working equids, so that they can better support initiatives that promote change.

Now that this book has been printed, widely distributed and aided with an online version that can be updated, the content and style will no doubt grow and flourish further. Veterinarians will be equipped and inspired to deal with a variety of conditions encountered, and innovation and shared ideas will lead to improved practice and better welfare outcome for these equids.

Achieving primary healthcare for working equids and other animals in poorer parts of the world is a global challenge. There are potential, sustainable 'win-win' situations for both human and animal welfare around the world if the right support is given to empower local professionals with viable, evidence-based treatment options and constructive approaches and attitudes towards animals, and awareness and capacities to respond to the needs of communities. This manual can play a very important role in this, and the 'Team Brooke' should be applauded for making this available to the veterinarians of the world.

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*Joe Anzuino,*  
*International Department, World Animal Protection, UK*

## **An Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Sixth Edition**

A Manning and MS Dawkins (2012). Published by Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK. 458 pages Paperback (ISBN 978-0-521-16514-3). Price £35.00.

This sixth edition of this well-known book, cherished by most aspirants to the study of animal behaviour, is absolutely packed full of descriptions and illustrations of how animals behave, discussions about our understanding of why they behave as they do and accounts of the science that has yielded this information.

On receiving this book, which is pretty substantial (458 pages), I performed the classic flick through, scrolling across pages and stopping randomly to get a feel for the contents. There is so much material contained within this book that it clearly needed more than a random rummage about amongst the pages to do it justice. However, this initial foray was very pleasing because, unlike in many textbooks, I wasn't faced with page after page of tightly packed black and white typeface but with lots of tantalising full and half-page illustra-

tions, mostly in colour, and clear chapter and section headings also colour-coded for easy navigation. My colleagues and I were so tantalised when we found the picture of ‘a newt in a cuff’ (or straight jacket as the caption stated) that it was clear I had to get on with reading the book properly and report back once I was enlightened about the newt cuff.

The book is divided into only seven chapters, covering a general introduction, the development of behaviour, stimuli and communication, decision-making and motivation, learning and memory, evolution, and finally social organisation. As a consequence, each chapter covers a huge amount of material and uses a kaleidoscope of animal examples to illustrate the concepts being explained. Each chapter is ended with a summary which emphasises what can be seen as the key learning points for the reader to take away.

I read quite a substantial portion of this book while invigilating undergraduate exams this summer. Glossing over the obvious question of whether this represents good invigilation practice; having stressed undergraduates scribbling away in front of me really focused my thinking about how this book would support them as they learn about animal behaviour and begin to develop their ethological skills. As already stated, this book is absolutely packed full of illustrations, both pictorial and descriptive, of fascinating behaviours performed by a multitude of species. For anyone with a burgeoning interest in animal behaviour this book should really unfold a whole new world before their eyes. However, I repeatedly found myself asking whether it does this in the way that our modern, online, media-influenced undergraduate generation would fully engage with. On the plus side, it is bright, easily navigable, fantastically illustrated and clearly works hard to be engaging and accessible. However, the question raised itself in my mind because the text is extremely information-dense, presented in a precise, sometimes dry, academic style and it requires the reader to have a reasonably high standard of biological language literacy to fully understand the technical content.

Actually, the book doesn’t specifically claim to be an undergraduate resource, although they are clearly a potential readership group. I even wonder if my reflections are more to do with concerns about how our current undergraduates engage with information than any genuine reservations about this book specifically. In fact, I feel it would be their loss, if the lack of video ‘shorts’, snappy magazine style sound-bites and oral commentary means that this type of resource, written by people with a vast wealth of knowledge and expertise, and an obvious passion for their subject doesn’t draw them in.

In previous discussions with colleagues, most of us can pinpoint a specific moment or incident that triggered our fascination with animal behaviour and drove us on to make animal behaviour part of our working life in some way, shape or form. For us, the already dedicated devotees, I think this book works excellently, it is the kind of resource that keeps on giving and the density and precision that may overwhelm some undergraduates is exactly what we enjoy.

*Becky Whay,*  
*University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Sciences,*  
*Bristol, UK*

### **Pets, People, and Pragmatism**

E McKenna (2013). Published by Fordham University Press, 2546 Belmont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458, USA. 264 pages Hardback (ISBN 97-808232-511-48). Price US\$85.00.

This book presents three chapters describing experiences with horses, dogs and cats, and two chapters on philosophy, as well as an introduction and a conclusion chapter. The most interesting chapters are those in which the author describes her interactions with pets, and which include insights into the importance of close attention to individual animal personalities and the evolutionary history of the species. McKenna’s interactions with animals provides interesting reading and rich reflections on the everyday facts, challenges and joys of maintaining pets. These chapters also provide an interesting description of critical animal welfare issues for each species. Hints of pragmatism are embedded in these chapters, but it is mostly in chapters 1 and 3 that pragmatism is discussed. This review will focus on the philosophical discussions and statements presented in the book.

There is a promise that the book will demonstrate an understanding of humans as part of nature. This is interesting, since it is likely that thinking about humans as separate from nature is related to poor human-animal interaction. Stepping down from the pedestal we have put ourselves upon seems essential for animals to live a better life. However, the promise was not fulfilled. Instead of a new understanding of humans and animals, the book made rather obvious points. Perhaps a good example is on p 41: “One of the most important points of Pragmatism is to be able to learn and grow in applying intelligence to our relations”. This stimulated two immediate thoughts: (i) our efforts to understand the world must involve learning and intelligence; it is hard to imagine that this is a good descriptor of a specific philosophical approach; and (ii) the use of intelligence is required, but not sufficient.

In chapter 3, anachronic statements are presented to be contradicted, as if this contradiction were an advancement produced by pragmatism. However, these oppositions are common today, independent of pragmatism. An example from p 115: ... “[Dewey] bases this ‘human’ right to experiment on other beings on his belief that such beings are capable of physical suffering only”. Then, in defence of Dewey and pragmatism, McKenna tells us that these earlier pragmatists sometimes failed to follow their own views consistently. Apart from the fact that this discussion is confusing, the main question might be: Why this long discussion on a view which is not the issue anymore? It is understandable that Dewey, Pierce and James made some statements that we can see in retrospect are wrong, as they lived before the bulk of the development of ethology and related sciences. This reminds me of a conference in Paris, *Un ‘Tournant Animalist’ en Anthropologie?*, held in June 2011, where it was evident that human and veterinary sciences would benefit from closer contact with each other, to avoid outdated ideas becoming the centre of attention.

An issue with the book is that the reader is frequently led to conclusions that do not derive from the premises presented.