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Book Review

Larry L. Jackson
Iowa State University

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Book Review

By
Larry L. Jackson, D.V.M., M.S.*

TEXTBOOK OF VETERINARY ANESTHESIA

Edited by Lawrence R. Soma, V.M.D.
The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1971. \$22.50

This volume of 621 pages represents the editors' and authors' efforts to present a monograph incorporating the newest techniques and equipment available in the field of veterinary anesthesia.

The editor has effectively collected the works of 30 authors, all well known in the field on which they report. A significant number come from the faculties of schools of medicine. This broadens the scope of the book and begins a liaison between veterinary and human anesthesia. Numerous figures and tables enhance the text.

The chapters on the physics, chemistry and pharmacodynamics of anesthetic agents are concise and easily understood and contain material suitable for study by both the clinical anesthetist and research worker. The chapters dealing with respiratory physiology are exceptional in that they discuss the physiology of respiration from an anesthesiologist's viewpoint with emphasis on clinical application.

As concise and well written as the sections on the theory of anesthesia are, they are overshadowed by those sections dealing with the clinical application of anesthesia. The newest techniques and equipment are included and meshed with historically sound techniques resulting in a complete selection of the agents and techniques available to the veterinary anesthesiologist today.

A section that is well worth reading, as it incorporates material formerly available only in scientific journals, is the section on restraint and anesthesia of laboratory and wild animals. This section includes a segment on anesthesia of aquatic mammals.

Each chapter is well referenced. The book is a compilation of available information to the veterinary anesthesiologist whether he is involved in research, clinical medicine, or industrial veterinary medicine.

This publication is highly recommended.

*Dr. Jackson is an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Iowa State University.