Book Review

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Conclusion

The presentation of uncommon veterinary patients should not be a point of uncertainty for veterinarians. If veterinarians are faced with a patient that they are not familiar with it would be reassuring to know that there is a brief guide available that gives accurate and short presentations on restraint and anesthesia. This guide has been compiled for just that reason, to aid the veterinarian.

REFERENCES

BOOK REVIEW


This book was “prepared as an introduction for those planning to pursue further training in laboratory animal medicine, as a text for veterinary medical students, and as a practical guide to veterinarians in private practice”. To accomplish this purpose a chapter is devoted to each of the following species: mice, rats, mongolian gerbils, Syrian hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, nonhuman primates and reptiles. Ferrets and reptiles, though not widely used as laboratory animals, are included because of their increasing popularity as pets and the lack of information about these species in the traditional veterinary curriculum.

Each chapter addresses common characteristics, biology, husbandry, techniques, diseases and miscellaneous conditions. It is appropriate that considerable information is presented on biology and husbandry of each species, as many animals presented to practitioners are suffering the consequences of improper management. The diseases and miscellaneous conditions discussed are the so-called “common” diseases which, while infrequent in well managed laboratory animal facilities, may well be encountered in pets or animals raised commercially for meat or fur. The disease discussions are brief, containing pertinent clinical information, recommended treatments, and minimal pathology. It is assumed that, given the unique characteristics and common diseases of each species, the reader will apply the basic clinical principles appropriate for other species.

There are three appendices in this book: Drug Dosages, Normal Values (Reproductive Data, Physiologic Data, Hematologic Data and Biochemical Data) and Preferred Food of Selected Reptilian Species. The table of Drug Dosages is an eighteen-page listing of drugs according to species and type of drug (antimicrobial, parasiticides, anesthetics and others). All of the appendices, drug dosages in particular, provide a concise, accessible reference that alone justifies the price of the book. Eleven pages of references are included as a resource for more in-depth reading on any of the species covered.

In summary, Clinical Laboratory Animal Medicine is clearly written, inexpensive and well organized. It provides good basic information on management, common diseases and treatments of laboratory animal species.

—Dr. J. G. Hopper