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Book Reviews

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This manual is written in elementary terms designed for students just becoming acquainted with the skills of an animal technician. With nine of its fifteen experiments involving mice, rats or rabbits, it is designed for laboratory animal assistance more than veterinary assistance, yet basic skills will be developed for both fields. The fifteen experiments follow a repeatable format with clear instructions that establish the goals of the experiment, materials, procedures and a student report. The student report is quite good, re-emphasizing the objective through direct instruction. The questions review the observations of the patients vital signs, and behavioral or physical changes, and encourages recording of these findings. The questions reinforce the use of formulas used in the experiments for drug calculations, concentrations and dilutions. Also questions that require researching other sources for characteristics of the drugs used in the experiments are asked. Many of these drugs are commonly used in veterinary medicine. The effects of most of the drugs are quite dramatic and this gives the student an appreciation for effects that drugs can produce.

The illustrations for most of the experiments are appropriate but they lack clear definition. Color illustrations would be very helpful when studying vaginal cytology and blood cell types. The experiment involving ovariotomizing the rat would benefit with illustrations of the anatomy of the ovaries and uterus, and a single interrupted suture pattern.

The experiments give the student experience in handling mice, rats, cats, dogs and birds, and in giving SQ, IM, IV, IP injections, and oral medication to many of these species.

The procedures of nail trimming, anal gland expressing and ear cleaning are very important for the practicing veterinary technician. Viewing the tympanic membrane with an otoscope would be a beneficial addition to the exercise. Overall, the manual is quite good and could be used in a self-taught manner.

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Dr. Potthoff is a resident in internal medicine at Iowa State University.

Bev Klein, a surgical technician in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Iowa State University described the Laboratory Manual for Animal Technicians by Victoria Solberg as:
- clearly illustrated
- simple reading, sometimes too simple
- containing good examples
- containing ample writing space for calculations and word problems
- concise wording and proper definitions
- containing helpful comments which reflected the experience of the author

Bev also states that many of the experiments and problems assigned in the book are difficult to assess without actually performing the activity.


The authors have given the text a new look, smaller in size, finer type and expanded subject matter. Subjects covered include hematology, clinical chemistry and cytology. In each chapter a brief description of general disease
processes and their mechanisms are discussed while specific diseases are cited but not described in detail. References are not cited in the text but are listed at the end of each chapter providing access to greater detail on specific topics if desired.

Numerous tables are presented throughout the text providing a summary of possible causes of abnormal laboratory findings. These are helpful in creating lists of differential diagnoses. The primary focus in the 1st edition and continued in this edition is the interpretation of laboratory data through a problem-oriented approach. This approach is reinforced throughout the text with references to 25 clinical cases presented in Appendix II.

Readers of the 2nd edition will find an amazing amount of useful information presented in a format designed to facilitate the interpretation and integration of laboratory data with clinical medicine. Veterinary students, instructors and practitioners will find this book a welcome addition to their library of resource material.

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