

BOOK REVIEWS

Clinical Behavioural Medicine for Small Animals

K Overall (1997). Mosby: London. 544pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, c/o Times Mirror International Publishers Ltd, Lynton House, 7-12 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LB, UK (ISBN 0801668204). Price £36.00/US\$52.95.

Behavioural medicine has been increasingly recognized by the veterinary profession over the last few years as an integral part of veterinary practice. Not only do pets with behaviour problems make up a significant proportion of the veterinary practitioner's case load, but incidences of behavioural change are often indicative of a breakdown in the human-animal bond, and of compromised welfare for the individual pets. Because this area of veterinary medicine is relatively new, it is an area where many vets in practice have very limited knowledge of the aetiology, diagnosis or treatment of the common problems that they are asked about. This text is, therefore, of great value in providing a thorough and clinically orientated insight into behaviour problems in dogs and cats. (Although the title refers to 'small animals', the text almost exclusively refers to dogs and cats, and not rabbits, birds, etc).

The author starts by introducing the field of behavioural medicine through the history of the speciality, emphasizing the importance of terminology, and highlighting epidemiological evidence of the incidence of behaviour problems. This is followed by chapters explaining canine and feline ethology, with very appropriate emphasis on the importance of understanding and interpreting what is normal in pets before examining what is abnormal. These sections cover social systems, behavioural development, sensory perception and communication systems in adequate detail, and with clinical reference for practising veterinarians. The next section describes the process of taking a behavioural history, with emphasis on those areas that are important to ensure relevant information is not missed, and also on maintaining client motivation and compliance. The author has also provided example client questionnaires for a variety of common behaviour problems in appendices, which provide a useful starting point for practitioners in the development of their own system.

The next six chapters of the book examine the types of canine and feline behaviour problems that are encountered in practice. The emphasis is on those problems that are encountered most commonly in practice, such as canine aggression and feline elimination problems. In each section, the problems are categorized either according to the presenting features of the problem, such as '*food related aggression*', where there could be a number of different possible motivations for the problem developing, or through more functional/motivational categories, such as '*marking behaviour*'. In each section, presenting features are explained, the possible reasons or motivations for behaviours are examined, and diagnosis criteria and treatment strategies suggested. The author has included a useful appendix for further clarification of terminology used in the text, which lists the author's interpretation of necessary and sufficient criteria for diagnosis of the various categories of behavioural disorder described. There is also an appendix that provides guidance on medical differentials for the behavioural disorders discussed.

The next section of the text describes the principles of treating behaviour problems using behaviour modification techniques, and then the pharmacological treatments available. The latter provides the veterinarian with a very useful reference section of all the possible pharmacological preparations that can be used in the modification of animal behaviour, with indications, dosages, mechanisms of action and contra-indications covered very thoroughly. The standard behaviour modification programmes used by the author are provided in 'tear out' form as an appendix, which provides a useful resource for the practising veterinarian.

The text concludes with informative sections on preventing the development of behaviour problems, legal issues, and the social implications of pets with behaviour problems. In addition, further appendices provide very practical information, such as sources of products, information, and client information texts, although these are understandably mainly relevant to the USA where the author is based.

The author of this text is a well-respected clinician in the field of veterinary clinical behaviour, and this text reflects her extensive knowledge and experience. All sections of the book are extremely well referenced, and the material covered includes the most recent advances in the field, which makes the text a valuable resource for specialists within the field as well as practising veterinarians. The book aims to be both a comprehensive work on the latest research and clinical experience to provide a source of reference for experts within the field, and also a practical text for the veterinarian working within general practice. One could argue that this makes the book too extensive and inaccessible for the latter, but in fact the result is a very comprehensive text, which provides an overview of this veterinary speciality as it stands at this point in time. Hence, the book is a very valuable source of reference, and should be on the shelf of anyone interested in clinical behaviour in dogs and cats.

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Biology of Marine Mammals

Edited by J E Reynolds III & S A Rommel (1999). Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington. 578pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 470 l'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7100, Washington, DC 20560, USA (ISBN 1560983752). Price US\$75.00.

The purpose of this book is to provide students and marine mammal professionals with a textbook on the biology of marine mammals. As such, it is a first, and fills a much-needed niche. The field of marine mammal science has evolved rapidly in recent years, with research material being published not only in the journal of the Society of Marine Mammology (*Marine Mammal Science*), but also in a variety of more specialized journals. Access to information by professionals and students alike has therefore been cumbersome, and it has been hard to get a comprehensive review of many subjects. This book not only provides the student with a concise textbook, but its thoroughness provides the manager and policymaker with a comprehensive reference volume. It is of great value to all those involved in the welfare of marine mammals, as it provides a comprehensive review of the physiological and psychological requirements of these mammals.

Biology of Marine Mammals consists of 10 chapters by 22 authors, all well respected in the disciplines they write about. Each chapter takes a comparative approach, reviews the current state of knowledge of the subject, highlights areas for further research, and provides a thorough reference list. Emphasis on different species varies between chapters, depending upon the extent of available data. The range of topics includes those pertaining to the basic biology of marine mammals. Aspects of marine mammal conservation are covered in a companion volume, also from the Smithsonian Institution Press, entitled *Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals*. An unlikely, but welcome, inclusion is the chapter on environmental contaminants in marine mammals. This area of research has become so topical that any student of marine mammology needs a basic understanding of the subject.

The first chapter is an excellent introduction to marine mammals, describing their unifying features. The second chapter gives an overview of the existing morphological solutions to