

morally abhorrent. However, it might have been useful to consider more on how our new scientific and medical knowledge could be a force for good. Indeed, even human 'eugenics' are not universally criticised, and recent years have seen several prominent bioethicists reconsidering the issue of 'procreative beneficence'. Eugenics is not the same thing as breed purity, and could be discussed separately. Plus, even if human eugenics is categorically deplorable, humans have opportunities to alter their husbandry to fit their genetics, whereas animals' environments can be fixed and inappropriate. Given the interactions between breeding and environment, breeding strategies could fit animals to their expected environments. While changing environment to fit the animal might be preferable, this issue needs more in-depth discussion.

Another omission is perhaps a lack of technical explanation, especially of genetic principles (for example, there is limited discussion of 'hybrid vigour'). This suggests to me that the best audience for this book is not students of animal welfare science. They will certainly be engaged and enraged, but they should, by now, be well aware of the problems — especially the environmental aspects. I would consider the book more suitable for those involved in breeding animals and related sciences. For them, I think the engaging, hybrid style and passionate writing should help them realise the outrageous nature of some of the problems. In fact, I think the book is a 'must-read' for all breeders, geneticists and veterinary surgeons, and would like to see it be mandatory text on every genetics, animal science and veterinary medicine course.

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BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine, Second Edition

Edited by DF Horwitz and DS Mills (2009). Published by BSAVA, Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AB, UK. 240 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-1-90531-915-2). Price £74.00, €88.00.

Although it is the British Small Animal Veterinary Association's Manual, 17 of the 26 contributors are based outside the British Isles, so this book has a truly global feel. The editors have done well to bring together a group of practitioners in the discipline of behavioural medicine, an area of growing importance for veterinarians but one that continues to struggle to earn the space it deserves in the veterinary undergraduate curricula. The result is a collection of interesting essays, rather than a traditional manual. The

rather sparse use of referencing by some authors, however, detracts from the edition's merit as a textbook.

The chapter cryptically titled 'Management problems in dogs' may prove the most useful for readers in practice since it focuses on unwelcome behaviours, their treatment and prevention. I sincerely hope they also spend time with the chapter on 'Behavioural medicine as an integral part of veterinary practice', which, despite its strong focus on dogs at the expense of cats, offers a much-needed blueprint for the improved behaviour of veterinarians. The chapter on 'Complementary therapies' is equally timely and fittingly blunt. I expect that practitioners will relish the trove of client handouts and questionnaires that appear on the accompanying CD.

On the downside, some practitioners may struggle to navigate through this book. For example, they will have to assume that the chapters on 'Aggression toward familiar people and animals' and 'Aggression toward unfamiliar people and animals' focus entirely on dogs. Chapter titles as vague as 'Situational sensitivities' contribute to this problem but repetition is the fundamental issue. A chapter called 'The common mistakes owners make' would potentially offer more than the rather aspirational chapters on prevention. Indeed, separate chapters for dogs and cats on 'Basic requirements for good behavioural health and well-being' and 'Management problems', as well as a further chapter on 'Stress' largely repeat material on best practice and account for the overwhelming sense of repetition that mars this otherwise readable text.

Tighter editing, a more logical structure and more attention to the needs of busy veterinarians would improve future editions. It would also be good to see the fundamental importance of oral activity in both dogs and cats given greater emphasis and the roles of neurotransmitters and thyroxine in canine aggression explored more thoroughly.

The animal welfare implications of this publication are considerable. There is a clear focus on the behavioural needs of companion cats and dogs and how these can best be met. The contributors do not shy from providing advice that makes significant demands on owners. Attention should probably have been drawn to the, contraindicated but, nevertheless, persistent use of choke chains by the unskilled mass of dog owners since, apart from taking a strong position on inherited disorders, replacing this item of equipment may be the simplest single step veterinarians in practice can take to improve dog welfare on a significant scale.

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