

ethicists such as Peter Singer and the so-called Oxford Group as quite the conservative. As Kirchhelle quotes from his correspondence with Singer: “she was for slow incremental reform [...] I wanted more public campaigning, protests, encouragement of vegetarianism etc.”

Kirchhelle’s fundamental aim of this book is, as I see it, to show us how Ruth Harrison’s life and activism was a vast and multifaceted endeavour. Indeed, after reading *Bearing Witness* one can easily get the feeling, as I did, that writing *Animal Machines* was perhaps not the most important part of Harrison’s life’s work. But it might have been a necessary one.

Although *Bearing Witness* is a biography it is certainly not intended for the general but interested public. It is a fact-, science-, notation-, and interpretation-heavy piece of scholarly work on a significant level. I am currently reading a biography on the logical positivists of the Vienna Circle, and I can read that in bed just before going to sleep. *Bearing Witness* is not a book for such circumstances. Compared, however, with similar scientific works in its field it is very well written, and the narrative is engaging and makes for a genre-wise, joyful read.

I would recommend this book to all those who work on animal welfare, human-animal studies, or animal philosophy. It is a rare and comprehensive work, giving us both new and better insights into the historical, political, and conceptual background of animal welfare.

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Practical Canine Behaviour: For Veterinary Nurses and Technicians, Second Edition

S Hedges (2021). Published by CABI, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK. 312 pages Paperback (ISBN: 978-1789246810). Price £45.00, €52.00, US\$60.00.

A cheeky little confession: as a veterinary nurse working in academia, I bought the first edition of this book when it arrived on the market back in the mid-2010s. It then sat on my ‘must read to remain’ current pile until it became buried in more pressing ‘must reads’ which also remained unread until further buried again in more pressing documents. Such that I have a pristine copy of edition one still gleaming at me from my bookshelf, relegated to the academic shelf of perpetual self-shame and failed good intentions that is probably so familiar to us all. Thus, I was jolted back into a state of intense embarrassment by the recognition that so many years had passed that we were now onto edition two, and I knew I was now both a normal academic and also a self-failed one. I also knew beyond certainty that I must accept the invite to review and expunge this shame from my academic soul. And expunge it I have: this book was such a good read for the behaviour-focused veterinary nurse that I have read it twice — cover-to-cover!

This book is a one-stop shop in canine behaviour for the practicing veterinary nurse. It has strong credentials: the author is both an established clinical animal behaviourist and a registered veterinary nurse with many years of in-

practice experience. This dual background shows in the breadth and depth of coverage and the approach the author has taken to covering the content. This author has clearly written for a readership and market that she knows well and is comfortable interacting with.

With a clear practical focus, this book begins by giving the reader a broad understanding of the ethology of the dog, covering both ontological and phylogenetic aspects. The author then turns her attention to problem behaviour, beginning by considering the influence of physiology, health and diet on canine behaviour, before focusing on the principles of learning theory. The author then moves to problem behaviour, outlining key types of problem behaviours that may be encountered, approaches to modification of behaviour and supportive adjuncts that may be useful when doing so. The remainder of the book is very much applied canine behaviour for the veterinary nurse, and addresses both setting up the veterinary practice experience to optimise canine behavioural health, preventative behavioural advice for new owners (particularly puppy owners), and factors to consider when running puppy classes through the practice. Finally, the author covers behavioural and training problems that may arise and where the veterinary nurses’ support may be sought by owners. Handy flow charts are provided to help the veterinary nurse determine whether this is a problem that can be managed by them and when to refer (and to who). Guidance is also provided on how to resolve some of the more common training-type problems that may occur, along with control and management-type triage and behavioural first aid.

While this book was clearly written by a veterinary nurse for veterinary nurses, it would be a mistake for other readers to gloss over this book as not for them or as lacking sufficient depth to be of interest to the veterinarian. In my opinion, this book provides sufficient detail that it should be of value to the whole veterinary team. Much of the content will also be of value to other canine professionals and the keen dog owner as, while the author’s intention is to provide veterinary nurses with the confidence to behaviourally advocate for their canine charges, the approach taken to the content means that the material is easily transferrable into other contexts too.

In terms of the positives of this book, the breadth and depth of coverage is one of its key selling points. There is very little that this author hasn’t thought to include that should be included. The veterinary nurse purchasing this book will feel exceptionally well supported in developing their understanding of canine behaviour and practically applying this in a safe, effective, and responsible way. I was particularly impressed with the coverage of learning theory, in particular that the author extended this understanding to include concepts such as overshadowing and blocking, as this is a level of depth not always seen in material aimed at veterinary nurses. While it is covering fundamental and sometimes complex concepts, the author achieves this through straightforward, easy-to-understand, explanations. These are supported by visual diagrams, bullet-pointed text boxes and flow charts that quickly summarise the key points. It is a shame that these are not available as A4 print-outs via the

publisher's website as I imagine several of these would otherwise find themselves tacked to the inner cupboard of the consultation room and used as *aide-mémoires* during a busy period of nursing and veterinary consultations.

Of course, no book is perfect and the balanced book review should also touch on areas of improvement. I was a little disappointed by the engagement with the scientific literature shown throughout the book, but particularly in relation to the supporting methods of behavioural modification. The author inconsistently uses references to support claims when reporting science and this was particularly evident in this section when adjuncts mentioned were not always critically evaluated for quality of evidence. Sometimes a citation is provided, and sometimes they merely allude to the research. I found that frustrating as I would have liked to have seen the source of the claim made, particularly in relation to alpha-casozepine, where the studies undertaken to examine its efficacy are not necessarily high quality. The other area for me that was lacking in a book aimed at veterinary nursing professionals was clinical governance and its potential interplay with canine behaviour. I felt this was a pity given its centrality within the professional code of conduct for veterinary nurses (and veterinarians) within the UK, and the day one skills/competency requirements. The use of tools such as significant event auditing and clinical auditing have real potential to effect change for future patients/clients of the practice or the veterinary professional, and for monitoring application of behavioural best practice and uptake within clinical practice. However, perhaps this is a theme to consider for edition three, when these concepts have been more broadly applied to veterinary behaviour, rather than the current common focus on aspects of practice like anaesthesia and infection control!

Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to any veterinary professional working in veterinary practice, whether a student, newly qualified, or with more miles on the clock than an aged London black cab. I would also highly recommend it for the career break veterinary nurse preparing to re-enter clinical nursing, particularly one entering a role with a consulting remit. It draws on the very extensive experience and knowledge of the author and is a very cost-effective way to undertake relatively comprehensive Continuing Professional Development that will be utilised daily in clinical practice. There is something in there for everyone in practice and I am confident that, unless you are already a practicing clinical animal behaviourist, you will find something of value that can be utilised in your daily clinical role at the veterinary practice. It will also be useful to veterinary and veterinary nursing educators focusing on practical application, though with students exhorted now to demonstrate evidence-based practice as part of their day one skills, they may want to question some of the unsupported or weakly supported claims and the educator should be prepared for this.

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Health and Welfare of Brachycephalic (Flat-faced) Companion Animals, First Edition

Edited by RMA Packer and DG O'Neill (2021). Published by CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA. 418 pages Paperback (ISBN: 978-0367207243), Hardback (ISBN: 978-0367207410). Price: £36.30 (Paperback), £88.99 (Hardback), £34.48 (Kindle Edition).

I have to admit that when I was asked if I would review this book I had an initial feeling of dread because a part of me, honestly, didn't want to read it. I find it utterly soul-destroying that after a century or more of knowing about the health problems associated with this conformation we have come to a point where this book is still so necessary. However, I agreed, and I'm very glad that I did.

Almost the first thing you read on opening the book is a Darwin quote that sums up the entire problem in 17 eloquent words: "Man selects only for his own good: Nature only for that of the being which she tends." I read this and felt an immediate sense of relief. I had been a little worried that the book was going to be a cold, clinical look at what vets are facing on a daily basis in practice. So much CPD focuses on the clinical issues like BOAS and its correction but this quote made me think that I might be pleasantly surprised.

The book is divided into two parts, the second being the *Clinical viewpoints*. I'd like to tackle this first. There is absolutely no doubt that the collective expertise that this book brings to the reader is immense. If you are facing clinical issues in these patients — notably dogs — as so many vets and nurses are worldwide, then I doubt you could come up with a question or scenario that isn't covered in an in-depth and comprehensive way from ophthalmology and neurology, to BOAS surgery, to GI and dermatological issues.

The title of the book refers to companion animals but I was disappointed that there is virtually no mention of cats, rabbits or horses — all companion animals suffering from the increasing trend towards brachycephaly. With around half the rabbit population of the UK being brachycephalic and the enormous dental issues that come with this skull shape, it would have been nice to see more on the other species affected.

The huge popularity of the three most common brachycephalic dog breeds is, of course, the reason that the book is dominated by that species. So many of us talk about BOAS and so much CPD is dedicated to it but it's great to have a book that acknowledges the multitude of diseases that these animals suffer besides their respiratory difficulties. Just reading the table of contents is enough to make your heart sink for these creatures. Anyone questioning whether it is morally wrong to continue the breeding of these animals would be hard pushed to argue with this weight of evidence I think.

And, for me, this is where the book is really excellent — the first half, diplomatically entitled *Wider viewpoints*, really is a wonderful ethical discussion around the whole issue that had me immersed from the start.

It starts with a fascinating historical look at how the animals came about and became more and more extreme. Interestingly, roughly every 50 years the health issues have a large peak in interest/outrage from the veterinary community