

tions, mostly in colour, and clear chapter and section headings also colour-coded for easy navigation. My colleagues and I were so tantalised when we found the picture of ‘a newt in a cuff’ (or straight jacket as the caption stated) that it was clear I had to get on with reading the book properly and report back once I was enlightened about the newt cuff.

The book is divided into only seven chapters, covering a general introduction, the development of behaviour, stimuli and communication, decision-making and motivation, learning and memory, evolution, and finally social organisation. As a consequence, each chapter covers a huge amount of material and uses a kaleidoscope of animal examples to illustrate the concepts being explained. Each chapter is ended with a summary which emphasises what can be seen as the key learning points for the reader to take away.

I read quite a substantial portion of this book while invigilating undergraduate exams this summer. Glossing over the obvious question of whether this represents good invigilation practice; having stressed undergraduates scribbling away in front of me really focused my thinking about how this book would support them as they learn about animal behaviour and begin to develop their ethological skills. As already stated, this book is absolutely packed full of illustrations, both pictorial and descriptive, of fascinating behaviours performed by a multitude of species. For anyone with a burgeoning interest in animal behaviour this book should really unfold a whole new world before their eyes. However, I repeatedly found myself asking whether it does this in the way that our modern, online, media-influenced undergraduate generation would fully engage with. On the plus side, it is bright, easily navigable, fantastically illustrated and clearly works hard to be engaging and accessible. However, the question raised itself in my mind because the text is extremely information-dense, presented in a precise, sometimes dry, academic style and it requires the reader to have a reasonably high standard of biological language literacy to fully understand the technical content.

Actually, the book doesn’t specifically claim to be an undergraduate resource, although they are clearly a potential readership group. I even wonder if my reflections are more to do with concerns about how our current undergraduates engage with information than any genuine reservations about this book specifically. In fact, I feel it would be their loss, if the lack of video ‘shorts’, snappy magazine style sound-bites and oral commentary means that this type of resource, written by people with a vast wealth of knowledge and expertise, and an obvious passion for their subject doesn’t draw them in.

In previous discussions with colleagues, most of us can pinpoint a specific moment or incident that triggered our fascination with animal behaviour and drove us on to make animal behaviour part of our working life in some way, shape or form. For us, the already dedicated devotees, I think this book works excellently, it is the kind of resource that keeps on giving and the density and precision that may overwhelm some undergraduates is exactly what we enjoy.

Becky Whay,
University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Sciences,
Bristol, UK

Pets, People, and Pragmatism

E McKenna (2013). Published by Fordham University Press, 2546 Belmont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458, USA. 264 pages Hardback (ISBN 97-808232-511-48). Price US\$85.00.

This book presents three chapters describing experiences with horses, dogs and cats, and two chapters on philosophy, as well as an introduction and a conclusion chapter. The most interesting chapters are those in which the author describes her interactions with pets, and which include insights into the importance of close attention to individual animal personalities and the evolutionary history of the species. McKenna’s interactions with animals provides interesting reading and rich reflections on the everyday facts, challenges and joys of maintaining pets. These chapters also provide an interesting description of critical animal welfare issues for each species. Hints of pragmatism are embedded in these chapters, but it is mostly in chapters 1 and 3 that pragmatism is discussed. This review will focus on the philosophical discussions and statements presented in the book.

There is a promise that the book will demonstrate an understanding of humans as part of nature. This is interesting, since it is likely that thinking about humans as separate from nature is related to poor human-animal interaction. Stepping down from the pedestal we have put ourselves upon seems essential for animals to live a better life. However, the promise was not fulfilled. Instead of a new understanding of humans and animals, the book made rather obvious points. Perhaps a good example is on p 41: “One of the most important points of Pragmatism is to be able to learn and grow in applying intelligence to our relations”. This stimulated two immediate thoughts: (i) our efforts to understand the world must involve learning and intelligence; it is hard to imagine that this is a good descriptor of a specific philosophical approach; and (ii) the use of intelligence is required, but not sufficient.

In chapter 3, anachronistic statements are presented to be contradicted, as if this contradiction were an advancement produced by pragmatism. However, these oppositions are common today, independent of pragmatism. An example from p 115: ... “[Dewey] bases this ‘human’ right to experiment on other beings on his belief that such beings are capable of physical suffering only”. Then, in defence of Dewey and pragmatism, McKenna tells us that these earlier pragmatists sometimes failed to follow their own views consistently. Apart from the fact that this discussion is confusing, the main question might be: Why this long discussion on a view which is not the issue anymore? It is understandable that Dewey, Pierce and James made some statements that we can see in retrospect are wrong, as they lived before the bulk of the development of ethology and related sciences. This reminds me of a conference in Paris, *Un ‘Tournant Animalist’ en Anthropologie?*, held in June 2011, where it was evident that human and veterinary sciences would benefit from closer contact with each other, to avoid outdated ideas becoming the centre of attention.

An issue with the book is that the reader is frequently led to conclusions that do not derive from the premises presented.

For instance, on p 65, regarding horses in circuses: "...Other horses may wear clothes and 'dance' or do tricks. Some argue this is demeaning, but much of what the horses do is not that different physically from what is asked in various competitions. So, the question becomes more one of providing acceptable training techniques and respecting the physical abilities of the horse". The logic employed here to dismiss the questioning on whether the activity is demeaning is truncated. How can the fact that something is also seen elsewhere be a proof that it is not demeaning? Or on p 72: "When not properly performed, or not properly understood, rodeo activities can promote the idea of dominating other animal beings". The central idea here seems to be that if you feel rodeos give the idea of dominating animals, you either have never seen a properly performed rodeo or you do not understand it properly. Thus, the discussion shifts from rodeo to disqualification of the reader. Another cautionary piece from McKenna is on p 99: "...a superficial understanding of Pragmatism may lead one to believe it would support a kind of 'application of intelligence' to control and manage other animal beings for human beings' use". Unfortunately, the arguments presented in the book did not convince me that pragmatism is not about expediency, even though McKenna adds kindness to it.

The overall structure of the book could be improved with more care to format across chapters and a reduction in repetition of ideas. Additionally, there are minor inaccuracies, but also more complex inaccuracies. For example, the comparison between micro-chipping and branding should consider that the pain involved in branding is more intense with the latter, and the lesion area more extensive. So, the significant decrease in pain associated with microchipping provides a solid basis for the opposition to branding. Another problematic idea put forward, in the context of domestication, is that "Humans have been altered as much as they have done some altering of others" (p 19). While there is some truth in this statement and interesting examples are given, human manipulation of domestic animal reproduction, has had major impacts to dog and cat welfare as well as to the welfare of farm and laboratory animal species.

The arguments made to support conclusions sometimes seem truncated. For example, on p 73: "Since no organization can monitor every horse, the only way to effectively change the treatment of horses as they are prepared for competition is to get humans to rethink this relationship". This sounds equivalent to saying: as no organisation can monitor every driver for drink-driving, the only way to effectively change this is to get humans to rethink this attitude. It is true we need education, but we also need laws and bans.

The implications for animal welfare should animal pragmatism as described by McKenna be applied, seem negative. While enticing, the argument provides lots of room for justification of animal treatment that are convenient to human interests. We need philosophical frameworks that bring more profound changes in human behaviour than simply ameliorating our practices with animals. Before searching for ways to improve each procedure or interaction we have with animals, a conscious deliberation is necessary as to whether

that action should take place, whether it is benevolent, non-malevolent, fair and considerate of the animal's interests. Most of the ameliorative measures suggested by the author are positive and welcome, however they require ethical deliberation to ensure that they are beneficial. We need philosophical structures that lead us to expand interactions within a context of compassionate proximity to animals and help us recognise unacceptable practices.

*Carla Forte Maiolino Molento,
Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil*

Managing Pig Health: A Reference for the Farm, Second Edition

Edited by MR Muirhead, TJL Alexander and J Carr (2013). Published by 5mBooks.com, Benchmark House, 8 Smithy Wood Drive, Sheffield S35 1QN, UK. 683 pages Hardback (ISBN 978-0955501159). Price £115.00.

The first edition of this extensive manual was written originally by two swine veterinarians, Michael R Muirhead (BVM&S, FRCVS, DPM) and Thomas JL Alexander (PhD, MVSc, BSc, MRCVS, DPM). Due to the untimely passing of these two outstanding specialists, the third veterinarian John Carr (PhD, BVSC; DPM, DipIECPHM, MRCVS) has finalised the publishing of the second edition.

Managing Pig Health is a book intended to be used on farm level by pig producers and advisors. The objective of the book is stated clearly: The writers want to help the reader to understand, identify, manage and treat disease problems on farms with the help of the veterinarian. It is not meant to be a substitute for the herd veterinarian, but to increase the understanding between the farmer and the vet. Hopefully, the reader also takes in the advice given about how to get the best out of this book. It is meant also to be read in many different countries. However, the cultures in different countries as regards pig management and welfare, as well as the existing diseases, vary extensively. This presents an added challenge for the writers! On the whole, they have managed quite well in it, but sometimes the text includes pieces of advice on things that cannot be performed by farmers in many countries. Any farmers reading this book from outside the UK might get a bit confused.

This book is an excellent source of information for farm managers who have a bit more education behind them and are able to apply the information at farm level. The layout, especially the cross-referencing and purposeful duplication of some parts of the book enable easy access to certain problem areas. I think also that veterinary students and veterinarians will find very useful information contained therein, especially regarding herd management, health management in different age groups, pig production and pig reproduction.

This book is a massive piece of work consisting of 17 chapters in 683 pages. In the beginning the chapters on the anatomy and physiology of the pig as well as understanding and managing health and disease have gathered the main points into a very logical order. Also, the nicely presented