

Equine Breeding Management and Artificial Insemination

Edited by J C Samper (2000). W B Saunders: Philadelphia. 300pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, The Curtis Center, Independence Square West, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106, USA (ISBN 0721670121). Price US\$55.00.

This hardback book written by 17 different authors and edited by Dr Samper comprises approximately 300 pages arranged into 18 chapters each with good quality black and white figures and a short reference list. A comprehensive index allows rapid access to the information within the different chapters.

The book examines in detail the anatomy, physiology, behaviour and breeding management of stallions, followed by semen collection and evaluation, artificial insemination and transmission of disease in semen. The subsequent chapters are devoted to the anatomy of the mare, oestrous synchronization, artificial insemination and breeding management. The book is completed by chapters on the problem mare, embryo transfer, problems of the pregnant mare, reproductive efficiency and reproductive technology.

Much of the information in this textbook is aimed at a discussion of breeding management and how this can influence fertility. For example, information on stallion sexual behaviour and day-to-day management of the stallion at stud is presented in a very practically oriented manner. As such, much of the information is suitable for the knowledgeable stud manager, although much information is very relevant to the veterinary surgeon in clinical practice. Good overviews are presented of clinical reproductive management including preparation of semen for transportation, insemination of the mare, and breeding management of the problem mare and of the mare during pregnancy.

The final chapter entitled *Future Equine Reproductive Technologies* provides an excellent overview of the role and potential development of breeding technologies in equine reproduction.

Overall, the book is well written and is presented in a useable format that makes it a worthwhile addition to the practice library.

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Companion Animal and Veterinary Nursing

Proceedings of the 75th Jubilee NZVA Conference (Companion Animal Session and Veterinary Nursing Session) held 29 June–2 July 1998, Rotorua, New Zealand. Published by Veterinary Continuing Education, Massey University, New Zealand (ISSN 01129643).

This publication reports the proceedings of a conference which does not appear to have had a clear theme. The majority of the papers (17 of 21) are concerned with various aspects of companion animal behaviour. Two papers relate to communication with people and one, on advances in veterinary nursing and veterinary nursing training, considers how the communicative, well-trained nurse can be responsible for various aspects of increasing the practice profile (and profit). Whilst these could have been linked to the behaviour modification contributions, client compliance and motivation being crucial to success in resolving behaviour problems, this was not the case. The final paper, on equine limb fractures, is so out of context that it appears to have been included merely as a token gesture to those of the nursing profession who either were not working with small animals and/or had