

DISEASES AND MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING STALLIONS

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American Veterinary Publications, Inc., 5782 Thornwood Drive, Goleta, CA 93117 1991, pp 349, 215 figures and 5 tables. Price \$44.50 (ISBN 0-939674-33-5)

The contents of this very informative text is divided into 16 chapters each with its own reference list. The first 4 chapters deal with normal processes and procedures including reproductive anatomy and physiology, breeding soundness evaluation, management of breeding stallions and semen collection and preservation. Spermatogenesis and sperm morphology feature strongly in the first 2 chapters with excellent additional information being provided in the many figures included in these 2 chapters. There is, however, in my opinion, the unfortunate use of terms such as "predicting stallion fertility" (p 63) and "fertility examination" (with breeding soundness as an alternative, p 94) in the chapter on breeding soundness evaluation.

The chapter on management of breeding stallions includes detailed sections on estimation of a stud book as well as artificial insemination programmes. In support of the latter, Chapter 4 then deals with a detailed exposition of semen collection, handling and preservation techniques.

Chapter 5 contains a concise explanation of castration techniques and postoperative complications while Chapter 6 deals with sexual behaviour dysfunctions including lack of libido, erection failure, mounting/intromission abnormalities, ejaculatory dysfunction and aggressive behaviour.

Chapters 7-15 deal with diseases and conditions of the genital organs and tract in ascending order from scrotum to prepuce. Where applicable, the contents of each chapter is divided into diagnostic and therapeutic considerations, congenital and familial diseases, physical conditions, toxic diseases, infectious/inflammatory/immune diseases, idiopathic diseases, neoplasia and multifactorial diseases/conditions.

Intersexual conditions are dealt with in the chapter on scrotal diseases; cryptorchidism in the chapter on testicular diseases; epididymal diseases and diseases of the tunica vaginalis in separate chapters, the latter also including hydrocoele and inguinal/scrotal herniation. A separate chapter is devoted to diseases of the spermatic cord including torsion. Subsequent chapters (12-15) deal with the accessory sex organs, urethra, penis (including paraphimosis, paralysis, priapism, phallopey, amputation and infectious conditions) and prepuce (including phimosis and sarcoid).

The last chapter contains a discussion of diseases/conditions affecting semen including haemospermia, urospermia, abnormal morphology, abnormal sperm motility and oligo-/azoospermia.

I believe this to be a useful book for equine practitioners and students of diseases and amangement of breeding stallions and recommend it as such. Of particular value is the fact that each chapter contains references to all possible conditions/diseases with cross references to the chapters of specific importance relevant to the condition/disease.

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