

- Record 137: 223
14. Lindsay D S, Dubey J P 1989 Immunohistochemical diagnosis of *Neospora caninum* in tissue sections. *American Journal of Veterinary Research* 50: 1981–1983
 15. Lindsay D S, Steinberg H, Dubielzig R R, Semrad S D, Konkle D M, Miller P E, Blagburn B L 1996 Central nervous system neosporosis in a foal. *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* 8: 507–510
 16. Marsh A E, Barr B L, Madigan J, Lakritz J, Nordhausen R, Conrad P A 1996 Neosporosis as a cause of equine protozoal myeloencephalitis. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 209: 1907–1913
 17. Marsh A E, Barr B C, Packham A E, Conrad P A 1998 Description of a new *Neospora* species (Protozoa: Apicomplexa: Sarcocystidae). *Journal of Parasitology* 84: 983–991
 18. Pronost S, Pitel P H, Romands S, Thulliez P, Collobert C, Fortner G 1999 *Neospora caninum*: first case in France in an aborted equine fetus. *Pratique Veterinaire Equine* 31: 111–114
 19. Speer C A, Dubey J P, McAllister M M, Blixt J A 1999 Comparative ultrastructure of tachyzoites, bradyzoites, and tissue cysts of *Neospora caninum* and *Toxoplasma gondii*. *International Journal for Parasitology* 29: 1509–1519
 20. Weissenböck H, Dubey J P, Suchy A, Sturm E 1997 Neosporosis causing encephalomalacia and myocarditis in young dogs. *Wiener Tierärztliche Monatsschrift* 84: 233–237
 21. Wells B H 1996 *Neospora*-induced abortion in a dairy herd in Zimbabwe. *Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal* 27: 9–11, 13–15

Book review — Boekresensie

Alternative and complementary veterinary medicine

Are Simeon Thoresen

2001. *Are Thoresen, Leikvollgata 31, N 3213 Sandefjord, Norway, hard cover, 544 pp., price on request from arethore@online.no, <http://home.online.no/~arethor> — ISBN 82 994172 2 8.*

This book is the 2nd edition of the original written in Norwegian. It has been translated into English by Phil Rogers MRCVS, one of Thoresen's students from Ireland. Are Simeon Thoresen graduated from the Oslo Veterinary School in 1979. Thereafter, he studied various aspects of alternative and complementary medicine, including homeopathy, acupuncture and anthroposophical medicine in various European countries as well as the USA. He uses holistic methods in his own practice. He also treats human patients holistically and gives lectures and courses on the use of complementary treatment methods.

The aim of the book is to give both professional and lay readers an understanding of the philosophy, principles and practice of holistic medicine. It is not intended as a textbook, but should rather be considered an introductory text on holistic concepts of diagnosis and therapy. Rather than advocating the use of alternative therapeutic modalities above conventional ones, the author sees conventional and alternative remedies as complementing each other in a holistic approach to health and disease. He encourages his readers to think about health and disease in a holistic way and emphasises the importance of discovering the root cause of a disease. The fundamental concept that is put forward throughout the book is that root causes of disease can be traced to imbalances of Vital Energetic Processes in the body that are precipitated by External or Internal Stressors and then manifest as Lesion-Symptom Complexes in Weak Structures of an animal/human.

The book is logically structured, with the first 3 chapters introducing the basic concepts and philosophy of holistic and complementary medicine and methods of diagnosis and therapy. The next 3 chapters are dedicated to the individual therapeutic modalities of acupuncture, homeopathy and herbal therapies respectively. Neural therapy, osteopathy, chiropractic and anthroposophical therapy are discussed together in the following chapter. Theoretical and practical thought processes are discussed followed by 'recipes' and practical treatment suggestions for specific conditions. Practical examples are interspersed in the text as illustrations of the application and efficacy of each treatment modality. A chapter that discusses the practical implementation of holistic methods in veterinary medicine is

also included. Questions of how both veterinarians and non-veterinarians should go about starting to use alternative therapeutic methods and which conditions are best suited to this approach are addressed. The final chapter discusses the importance of nutrition, environment and biorhythms in disease prevention. Once again, emphasis is placed on energies and the stimulation or balancing of body Processes.

The ideas expressed are very different from conventional medical thinking. Methods of therapy are seen as regulating and stimulating Vital Energetic Processes. Even the effect of herbal therapies is seen to be due to holistic stimulation of autoregulation mechanisms of the body rather than due to specific active compounds in the plant, as is the opinion of conventional thinkers. The author sees the combination of conventional medicine with complementary treatment as being appropriate in a holistic approach to the treatment of disease since the complementary treatment stimulates the animal's vital energies and the conventional treatment can help to alleviate the patient's symptoms without interfering with the efficacy of the complementary treatment.

The book presents a comprehensive overview of the different alternative and complementary therapies used in veterinary medicine as well as the philosophy of holistic diagnosis and therapeutics. The format and writing style makes the book easy and enjoyable to read. Arguments are, however, not supported scientifically. Critical, conventionally trained readers may be disappointed and will not accept many of the statements made. The book can be useful for veterinarians interested in applying alternative methods in their veterinary practice, but could also be interesting reading for sceptics who would like to find out more about the holistic approach to treatment and prevention of disease.

D van der Merwe
ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute
Onderstepoort

R Gehring
Faculty of Veterinary Science
University of Pretoria
Onderstepoort