

## Book review — Boekresensie

# Ethnoveterinary medicine — An annotated bibliography of community animal healthcare

Edited by M Martin, E Mathias and C M McCorkle

2001. ITDG Publishing, London, 611 pp., soft cover. Price £25. ISBN 18 5339 522 6.

Evelyn Mathias and Constance McCorkle made a significant contribution to the field of ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) by publishing the first bibliography on the subject in 1989. This bibliography, written with Marina Martin, meets the same need for an annotated bibliography that mirrors developments in this dynamic field. The bibliography predominantly reflects recent EVM literature with most documents dating from 1989 to 1999. The strong growth in EVM over the last decade is illustrated by the fact that the 1989 bibliography contained 261 entries while the 2001 bibliography boasts 1240. Information spans 118 countries, 160 ethnic groups and around 200 health problems of 25 livestock species. A substantial introduction discusses the scope of EVM. The whole range of ethnoveterinary knowledge is discussed, including aspects of diagnostic techniques, *materia medica*, modes of preparation and administration, surgery, hydro/physical/mechanical techniques, environmental controls, herding and related strat-

egies, genetic management, medico-religious acts, tools, technologies and human resources. A critique of EVM is included that incorporates some of the critical issues surrounding EVM. Comparative data are summarised in tables. A useful feature of the book is a section on Internet resources that includes mailing lists and relevant web sites. A comprehensive index serves as a guide to documents. The book aims to provide contemporary data, ideas and approaches to the evaluation, application and extension of EVM. It also suggests potential benefits to people derived from indigenous knowledge. The book can be recommended to anyone who wishes to gain insight into EVM and it will be an indispensable tool in literature reviews on the subject. It succeeds admirably in its aims.

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