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## Book review — Boekresensie

### Veterinary helminthology

Tibor Kassai

1999. Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 260 pp., soft cover. £35.00. ISBN 0 7506 3563 0.

“Veterinary Helminthology” is intended for veterinary practitioners, laboratory workers, researchers, instructors, graduate and advanced students of veterinary and biomedical sciences. It is a practical text and includes the important flukes, tapeworms and roundworms of domestic, game and companion animals as well as humans.

Part I includes helminth disease agents giving a review of the flukes, tapeworms and roundworms according to their taxonomic hierarchy. With this classification the reader is also given the helminth diseases of the various hosts and together these make the text more versatile. The roundworms are the most numerous in veterinary helminthology and compile a third of the book. Part II deals with anthelmintic therapy and control. This includes the treatment decision, diagnoses, selection of the appropriate anthelmintics, drug resistance and testing compounds for anthelmintic efficacy. Non-chemotherapeutic control alternatives and planning of integrated control strategies are included in this chapter together with chemotherapy. This reflects our current understanding of how all of these components form an ‘integrated parasite toolbox’ that can be used in the control of helminth parasites.

Part III is diagnostic helminthology and includes examination of faeces, urine and blood, *post mortem* worm count techniques and examination of muscles and skin. A section on molecular biological techniques updates the reader on the current status of this field.

Part IV includes summary charts of the common helminth eggs for each of the important host species.

Several sections add value to the practical nature of this book. These are: a glossary with terms and definitions related to helminths, a classification of parasitic helminths, disease nomenclature and a multilingual dictionary of major helminths in six languages (*i.e.* English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese).

This book is well-illustrated and well-photographed. The author’s use of key words and bullet points makes the text easy to read and lifts out the main points in a specific section for the reader.

This book provides a complete and working guide to veterinary helminthology and when it does not contain the required information, provides the reader with additional relevant references. Although this book emphasises the important helminths of the Northern Hemisphere, it includes sufficient information to make it useful to those working in the Southern Hemisphere. Many texts overlook the applications needed for preventing helminth disease in developing community situations. However, this volume includes recommendations relevant for both the developed and developing countries in which the tools of this book can be applied.

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