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Book review — Boekresensie

Veterinary reproduction & obstetrics (7th edn)

Edited by G H Arthur, D E Noakes, H Pearson and T J Parkinson

1996. W B Saunders Company, London, 726pp. Price: £ 65.00. ISBN 0-7020-1785-X.

The latest edition of *Veterinary reproduction and obstetrics* is an improvement on the previous book, which already provided an excellent text on the topic of reproduction and obstetrics of domestic animals. The improvements include additional information on reproductive physiology of both sexes, more emphasis on the use of ultrasound diagnostics for cyclical changes and pathology of the genital tract and newer and more complete information on a variety of topics. The book is well illustrated with numerous figures, photographs, tables and, new in this edition, 7 colour plates.

The book is divided into 8 parts, each with a number of chapters. Part 1 deals with normal oestrous cycles of domestic animals. This section would have been much more complete if it had been introduced with some information on basic endocrinology. Part 2 amply covers the field of pregnancy and parturition and is well supported by figures, photographs and tables. Dystocia and other disorders associated with parturition is dealt with in Part 3. As in previous editions, this is the best section of the book. Part 4 deals with operative interventions, with a practical approach to operative interventions such as Caesarean sections. Part 5 on infertility provides a sound background on the causes, treatment and control

of infertility. This section is divided into 7 chapters 3 of which deal with cattle and the others with the ewe and doe, mare, sow, and bitch and queen, respectively. Functional infertility in the cow is particularly well addressed. Part 6 deals with the male animal. Here the step-by-step approach to examining the male and dealing with andrological problems is logical and far better than in the previous edition. Part of this section deals with artificial insemination. The text on cattle is good but for the other species somewhat disappointing. The section on exotic species (Part 7) is misleading as it deals rather superficially with reproduction in the camel and (water) buffalo only. In my opinion it does not serve a useful purpose in this book. Embryo transfer (Part 8) is a very important aspect of veterinary reproduction and warrants better attention than the limited information supplied in the new book.

All in all, this is a very good text on reproduction and obstetrics of domestic animals for the veterinary undergraduate and practitioner alike.

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