The parasitoses of domestic and utility animals still remain a serious problem, particularly under the conditions involved in intensive breeding of these animals. A prerequisite for the development of effective hygienic and prophylactic measures is a rapid and correct diagnosis of these diseases and a basic knowledge of their agents and possibilities of therapy. The same concerns the problems for the diagnosis and therapy of parasitoses in dogs, cats and other home-kept animals which veterinarians also encounter and which are often considerably important from the epidemiological point of view. A very useful aid in this respect proved to be the book by the above mentioned authors, the second, extended and actualized edition of which has just been published (the first edition appeared in 1985).

The book represents a richly illustrated survey of parasitoses and their agents (endoparasites and stationary ectoparasites) found in the above mentioned hosts, including diagnostic keys and basic data on their geographical distribution, symptoms of the disease, the mode of infection, prophylaxis, incubation, prepatent and patent periods, and means of therapy. Included are parasitoses in ten groups of European species of hosts: dog and cat; pig; horse and ox; ruminants; hare, rabbit and laboratory rodents; hedgehog; birds; home-kept reptiles and amphibians; fish; and bees. The parasites are arranged according to the host’s organs in which their adult or developmental stages are found. The first chapter of the book is devoted to the methods of parasitological examination of hosts and further elaboration of parasitological materials, sending of samples and cultivating the parasites. In addition to References and Index, a very important list of antiparasitic medicals is included.

This comprehensive volume is well arranged and represents an invaluable source of information. Especially the numerous illustrations, mostly micrographs, are very useful for the diagnostics of parasitoses. Only a few inaccuracies and minor errors have occurred in the text: for example, there is only one species of swimbladder nematodes parasitizing salmonids in Europe, Cryptocotyle farionis, whereas C. cysticola and C. impar are its synonyms (p. 419) and their intermediate hosts are not aquatic insect larvae, but small benthic crustaceans (gammarids); another important swimbladder nematode of fish, Anguillicola crassus of eels, is not mentioned; Thynnascaris is a partial synonym of Hysterobothrium, but the latter is generally considered a valid genus, distinct from Contracaecum (p. 403); all capillarids are listed in a single genus Capillaria, whereas a new system of more genera is currently recognized by most authors; according to the present rules of zoological nomenclature, the name Apophallus mühlingi (p. 24) should now be A. muchlingi; the trematode in Fig. 9.3 (p. 398) designated as the metacercaria „Diplostomum trautzii“ can hardly be considered to belong to Diplostomum. However, all these minor mistakes are negligible.

The book as a whole is of a high standard and is much enhanced by good graphics and layout. Undoubtedly, this excellent book will become an indispensable and widely used aid for veterinarians and other specialists interested in these problems.

František Moravec