

J. Kaufmann: Parasitic Infections of Domestic Animals: A Diagnostic Manual. Birkhäuser Verlag, 1996, ISBN 3-7643-5112-2, 423 pp., Price 78.- Sw. fr.

The author of this manual worked in the late 1980s in a field laboratory in Gambia, where he became aware of the need for practical literature on parasitic diagnosis. Upon his return to Switzerland he compiled a great deal of information from various sources. The result is a comprehensive, well illustrated (approximately 320 colour and 400 black and white illustrations) and useful manual. This book has been designed to be used primarily by veterinarians and technicians in diagnostic laboratories, but it has relevance for anyone dealing with parasitic diseases in domestic animals.

The book is divided into the following sections: methods, parasites of cattle, parasites of sheep and goats, parasites of horses and donkeys, parasites of dromedaries, parasites of swine and parasites of poultry. The methodology is the core of the first section which is devoted to examination of fecal specimens, examination of material for *Trichinella spiralis*, hematological methods for diagnosis of parasites, and basic entomological methods. Additional methods are offered in two parts devoted to the more sophisticated diagnostic methods: immunological and molecular biological techniques.

Other chapters parts of the manual are divided into five chapters in which parasites may occur: stages found in the gut and feces, stages found in the blood and circulatory system, stages found in the urogenital system, stages found in internal organs and stages found on the body surface. Under each of these chapters parasites are arranged in taxonomic groups: protozoa, helminths (trematodes, cestodes and nematodes) and arthropods (arachnids and insects). Information relevant to

each parasite covers the scientific name of the parasite, the common name of the disease caused by the parasite, a description of the parasite containing basic biological data and disease description including geographical distribution, clinical symptoms, pathological diagnosis and therapy. Arthropod-borne infections contain information on the biology of their respective vectors. The manual also contains parts devoted to rickettsiae (*Anaplasma* spp., *Ehrlichia* sp., *Cowdria ruminantium*, *Eperythrozoon* spp. and others), an important group of "parasite-like" pathogens which are often found in blood or tissue smears made for detection of blood parasites. A bibliography, recommended references and comprehensive index add to the utility of this book. This book is printed on high-quality paper, is securely bound, has a pleasant appearance and although expensive, it belongs in the library of all diagnosticians involved in the veterinary parasitology.

This manual remarkably up to date and will supplement other veterinary parasitology textbooks. Simple comprehensive keys to the identification of coccidial oocysts, flagellate cysts, helminth eggs found in domestic animals presented predominantly as photomicrographs, would have been very useful additions.

Despite of these minor criticisms, this manual represents a useful practical aid to improve laboratory recognition of parasitic infections in domestic animals that will be used in many laboratories throughout developing as well as developed areas of the world.

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