BOOK REVIEWS


The contents of this book need no further explanation than provided by the title. Anyone directly or indirectly associated with the field of zoologic or exotic animal medicine is familiar with the author, Dr. Murray Fowler. Those who know Dr. Fowler are also aware of the immense amount of historical information that he has accumulated regarding veterinary medicine in general and zoo animal medicine in particular.

Dr. Fowler has published several texts and reference books that address the science of zoo medicine. This autobiography is quite different in content. Dr. Fowler leads the reader through his life growing up on a farm, teenage years, military service, veterinary school, and veterinary career in a very casual, chatty fashion that is reminiscent of a personal conversation rather than an lecture. The anecdotes are glimpses of Dr. Fowler’s life and lend to the personal feeling of the book. The author’s compassion and commitment to his patients, profession, and family are evident throughout. As expected, the book is generously supplied with animal stories. Many of these give the “modern” zoo vet an appreciation for the conditions facing our profession years ago and the significant advancements made by our colleagues.

I found this book enjoyable reading, providing an interesting and educational view of the author as well as the profession. I would recommend it to anyone in the veterinary field and especially the zoo medicine field. It provides a valuable history and perspective of our profession.—Reviewed by Randy Junge, D.V.M., Dipl. A.C.Z.M., Staff Veterinarian, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, USA.


This book is an excellent reference for veterinarians and private rehabilitators for the practice of wildlife rehabilitation. Les Stocker is obviously very experienced and qualified in this field. He is also very skilled at writing in an interesting fashion for both the lay person and the professional. He has an impressive reference list in the back that is useful for further research on a particular subject, and that is important because he correctly states in the Preface that many rehabilitators will feel the desire for more information on subjects they are interested in. I think I would have liked to have the particular references listed for each subject at the back of each chapter for easy use or cited in the text.

The book is divided into 29 short chapters starting with the prime directives of rehabilitation for the safety of personnel and acceptable standards of animal care. It includes record keeping, basic housing to minimize stress on the animals, some behavioral aspects of rehabilitation such as imprinting and taming, and a small section on euthanasia. Opinions may vary on these standards and when to euthanize an animal, but he gives all his readers something to think about while conducting wildlife rehabilitation work. The next six chapters are on emergency care such as fluid therapy, wound management, and fracture repairs. I found this an effective way to begin the subject of caring for injured wildlife because 80–90% of wildlife rehabilitation consists of trauma medicine. The rest of the 29 chapters consist of the rehabilitation of particular groups of animals or certain species that are most commonly brought to rehabilitators. I found that this layout made looking things up very fast and easy. Things that were more specific that needed looking up were adequately listed in the index section. I thought that the last seven sections were some of the most concise and helpful sections for rehabilitators. These consisted of seven appendices that included animal legal schedules certificates and licenses needed, supplies and suppliers lists, transportation requirements, etc. These should be a must for every rehabilitation book, and these guidelines are so often lacking.

The text layout is effective and easy to read. Tables, charts, and figures in the books generally very much helped the dialog of the text, and cross-referencing within the chapters helped clarify and unify the material. I did feel that sometimes the dosing of drugs or the amounts fed to animals (both babies and adults) could have been a little more precise. I am sure Dr. Stocker knows them well, but they need to be very clear and easy to calculate for the average rehabilitator, whose math skills I have often found to be lacking. Perhaps charts for dosages would have been easier. On these charts, the suppliers could have been referenced, again for ease of location. Of course, most of the suppliers listed in this book and the drugs or foods are found in the U.K. and not the U.S. U.S. suppliers would be helpful to readers in this country. I found most of the photographs and line drawings to be very beneficial to the text and very helpful in clarifying the different techniques used by Dr. Stocker.

I feel that this is a very useful generalized text for professional and backyard wildlife rehabilitators. Being a paperback and at a reasonable price of $34.95, it should be in everyone’s library.—Reviewed by Janette Ackermann, M.S., D.V.M., American Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 1246. Molalla, Oregon 97038, USA.


This softbound second edition of 144 pages is authored by a practicing veterinarian with over 30 years of experience as a breeder and exhibitor of guinea pigs. Her preface states a goal “to provide a comprehensive text cov-