

Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEW . . .

Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization, Terry J. Kreeger. Published by International Wildlife Veterinary Services, Inc., P.O. Box 37, Laramie, Wyoming 82070-0037, USA, \$38.50 U.S., 340 pp.

This 340 page volume entitled "Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization" by Terry J. Kreeger has six chapters; (1) Capture Drugs, (2) The Capture Event, (3) Equipment, (4) Emergency Treatment—Animal, (5) Emergency Treatment—Human, and (6) a chapter including Drug Doses, References, Glossary, and Weight Conversion Table. To illustrate the comprehensive coverage in this volume it is necessary to break down each chapter into its main components. Chapter 1 covers legal considerations, general principles, and a classification of drugs used for chemical immobilization. Chapter 2 covers four philosophical rules to consider prior to any capture event, considerations prior to immobilization, preparation, approach, administration sites, immobilization signs, handling the immobilized animal, recovery of the immobilized animal and euthanasia. Chapter 3 discusses the various choices of equipment for immobilization and monitoring and the sources of this equipment. Chapter 4 (pages colored yellow) deals with treatment of respiratory depression/arrest, shock, hyperthermia, hypothermia/frostbite, bloat, vomiting/aspiration, capture myopathy, seizure/convulsions, wounds, cardiac arrest, dehydration and the components of a veterinary first aid kit. Chapter 5 (pages colored pink) deals with human emergencies and how to prevent them, deal with them, treat them, and what a human first aid kit should contain. Chapter 6 is self explanatory.

The 5½" × 8½" soft cover manual is intended to accompany the users (wildlife biologists, wildlife and zoo veterinarians, game ranchers, animal control persons and students) in the field. The format highlights, not details, each segment in the manual. The conciseness of this manual does not detract from its usefulness, but enhances it. Dr. Kreeger has saved all who need to investigate a chemical immobilization

procedure much time and anguish in literature search by compiling and analyzing drugs and doses from published reports and private records and makes a single recommendation for a given species. He acknowledges that his recommended drug is not always best under all circumstances. Comprehensive references are provided for those desiring options or more detailed background. The reference section alone is worth the price of the manual.

As with any text on drugs and their application, the advent of new and improved drugs will require updates of this volume. Nevertheless, working with the information presented, one can feel confident that an immobilization procedure can be successfully accomplished.

In the section in Chapter 1 on human consumption of drugged animals, the author suggests a conservative holding time of at least 45 days following drugging before the animal is consumed. This recommendation has been confirmed by the Animal Medicinal Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) that went into effect on December 9, 1996. The law states that animals harvested for human consumption must be considered food animals and extra label drugs are prohibited during or 45 days prior to a legal hunting season. There are other aspects of this law that effect the use of immobilizing drugs for wildlife, such as their use must be supervised by a veterinarian. The next edition of this manual should spell out all the ramifications of this law as the various state practice acts interpret and implement them.

The species covered in this volume is impressive and runs from aardvark to zebu, including mammals, birds, and reptiles. This handbook will be well used and fulfill a dire need. It should be in the hands of anyone even remotely involved in chemical immobilization of wildlife. I comment Dr. Kreeger on a difficult task well done and appreciate the tremendous task of compiling it.

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BOOK REVIEW . . .

Clinical Veterinary Toxicology, G. Lorgue, J. Lechenet, and A. Rivière. Published by Blackwell Science, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Distributed by Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A. 1996. 210 pp., \$39.95 U.S. ISBN# 0-632-03269-3.

This book is based upon the experiences of the Centre National d'Informations Toxicologiques Vétérinaires (CNITV) in Lyons, France, and the Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS) in London and Leeds, United Kingdom, in compiling and analyzing data from over 38,000 cases of animal poisoning reported by veterinarians throughout France.

Clinical Veterinary Toxicology is organized in several main sections. The first section provides an introduction to the work of the CNITV and VPIS. These chapters focus on the epidemiology of the calls received by the Poison Information Centers, including data on the callers, types of calls received, species involved, and toxic agent classes most often involved. General information regarding treatment of poisoning, including general decontamination procedures and supportive measures is discussed. Proper sample collection and submission for laboratory analysis are described, including packaging instructions for samples. Specific instructions for special samples, such as feeds, water, plants, and forensic specimens, also are included.

The main section provides an alphabetic listing of approximately 400 of the most common toxic agents reported to the poison information centers, with short descriptions of the toxicity of each agent. The toxicant topics include plants, mycotoxins, household and industrial chemicals, agrochemicals, pesticides, and pollutants. Individual agents are organized in an outline sketch under the following main categories: general description of the toxicant, animals most affected, etiology, toxicity, clinical features (subdivided by individual bodily system), general effects, lesions, treatment, diagnostics, and case summaries. Each entry is short and succinct, containing only essential details, in order to allow the practitioner quick reference when needed. Repetition of information is minimized by referring the reader to discussions of the agent class (e.g., anticoagulants) for individual pesticides after providing a brief discussion of the toxicity of the individual agent (e.g., brodifacoum).

The final section of the book provides a bibliography, a glossary, and a cross index of toxicological agents covered in the book. A short bibliography is provided, but individual entries

in the book are not referenced. The cross index is very helpful in grouping individual agents by chemical class, plant Linnean and family names, and animal classes and species. An overall index to the book is not provided.

The book has a European orientation, in that it contains entries for many toxicants that are not in use in North America. By contrast, it does not contain many toxicants, especially individual pesticides and plants, that are common toxicants in North America. The entry names in the alphabetical listing of toxicants are not very intuitive. For example, no entries are under snake, snakebite or reptile, the entry is listed under adder. Similarly, searching under gasoline, kerosene, petrol, or petroleum distillates, yields no entries; the entry is listed under hydrocarbons. The entry names use European common names for plants and European generic names for chemicals, which may not be the same for North America. Postal regulations are provided for the United Kingdom and International Post; regulations for the United States and Canada are not discussed. The cross indexes are helpful in resolving some of the confusion regarding agent names, although more cross-indexing within the alphabetical agent list would have been helpful.

With respect to wildlife poisonings, some data for acute toxicity in wildlife species is presented when available. The two most common species involved in reported toxicoses are dogs and cattle and the selection and description of toxic agents included in the book are oriented towards those species. Wildlife species constituted only approximately 3% of the calls to the Poison Information Centers. The agents most commonly involved in wildlife poisonings are often reported as unknown and when known, are not specifically listed within the text. Although the book describes both acute and chronic poisoning syndromes, it is not concerned with the possible longer term effects such as environmental persistence, residues, teratogenicity, endocrine effects, or ecosystem effects.

Overall, *Clinical Veterinary Toxicology* provides a broad superficial review of a wide variety of common animal toxicants. If wildlife veterinarians and wildlife health professionals are looking for a reference book for wildlife toxicoses, this book does not provide the specific technical details or references desired. Where specific practical details are provided, such as with postal regulations, the applicability is limited to the United Kingdom and Europe, and may not be in compliance with United

States or Canadian rules and regulations. The authors intended the book to be useful for practicing small and large animal veterinarians in Europe as a field guide for common animal toxicants. For this audience, the authors have done a wonderful service for the veterinary

community in publishing *Clinical Veterinary Toxicology*.

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