

Book Review: Equine Paediatric Medicine

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Title: Equine Paediatric Medicine

Authors: William Bernard and Bonnie S. Barr

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Equine Paediatric Medicine is a new publication aimed at practicing clinicians and students with an interest in equine neonatology. The authors, William Bernard and Bonnie Barr recognise within their preface to the book that it is not a text intended for those clinicians who have specialised in neonatology or paediatric medicine, but more for the general equine practitioner, or student, as a reference guide.

The book has been organised in to chapters written both by the main authors and by industry experts either teaching or practicing within the field of equine paediatric medicine, thus adding to the practically applicable information delivered through the book. The books opening chapter outlines the procedures undertaken during a physical examination of the foal. This starting chapter clearly states the normal visual and non-visual parameter ranges that are expected in a healthy foal for a range of post-natal ages. This chapter progresses from discussion of normal parameters, to detail on how to physically examine the foal and the indications of abnormal presenting signs that may need to be investigated further. Examples of conditions influencing the normal parameters are given in brief within this section; however directions to the reader on where to find the more in-depth information on these conditions within the remainder of the book would have been helpful.

The majority of the remaining chapters within the book have been organised primarily with regards to body systems. Each of these chapters outlines and evaluates a range disorders that could potentially affect the foal. For each disorder the text summarises key points of the disease including incidence and prevalence, as well as defining the disease and discussing the aetiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, clinical diagnosis and management, through clearly defined subheadings. Although the book and its chapters contain contributions from a range of authors, the format, layout and direction through clear subheadings, has been maintained within each chapter, supporting it as being an easy-to-follow reference text.

The information provided within this book is supported by the inclusion of a comprehensive range of drawings, tables, charts, colour photographs, radiographs, ultrasound scans, and endoscopy and histology images. These visual illustrations have been used effectively to further the readers understanding of parameter variations and diagnosis as well as surgical procedures, technical equipment needed and post-mortem findings and really helps to bring the information to life.

As indicated by the authors, this text is intended to be a reference guide which is reflected by the short, yet informative overviews of most of the disorders. Each chapter of the book does however; contain a list of suggested further reading which is a really good inclusion enabling students and clinicians clear direction in terms of finding more detail on the aspects under discussion. *Equine Paediatric Medicine* is a really useful addition to the limited range of texts available within this subject area and its design and layout enables it to be an effective initial reference to students and

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