Veterinary medicine books recommended for academic libraries

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This bibliography of in-print veterinary medical books published in English may be used as an acquisitions or evaluation tool for developing the monograph component of new veterinary medicine collections or existing science, technology, and medicine collections where veterinary medicine is in the scope of the collection. The bibliography is divided into 34 categories and consists of bibliographic information for 419 titles. The appendix contains an author/editor index. Prices for all entries are in US dollars, except where another currency is noted. The total cost of all books in the bibliography is $43,602.13 (US).

INTRODUCTION

This bibliography of in-print veterinary medicine books published in English is intended to be used as an acquisitions and evaluation tool for developing the monograph component of new veterinary medicine collections or for supplementing existing science, technology, and medicine collections where veterinary medicine is in the scope of the collection. It may also be used as an evaluation tool by staff of academic libraries that support a veterinary medicine curriculum. It is current as of spring 2004—that is, all titles are listed as in-print on publishers’ Websites and in their current catalogs—but not comprehensive. The books listed in this bibliography have been recommended by those who use them: veterinary medicine faculty, graduate students, and librarians.

SCOPE OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Titles were initially selected by the author after examining a variety of sources such as book reviews, subject bibliographies, recommended reading lists prepared by subject specialists, and library catalogs. Critical reviews from expert users were helpful as a selection criterion; in addition, titles were ranked according to frequency of their occurrence in subject bibliographies, recommended reading lists, and library catalogs.

Reviews of popular nonfiction books in science and medicine are common; however, it is more difficult to find high-quality reviews of scientific, technical, and medical books. Reviews written by subject specialists—considered to be the gold standard—were consulted in print and electronic academic journals, as well as in reviewing tools such as the subscription database Global Books in Print.

Other resources are freely available on the Internet; for example, publishers use their Websites to link their books to favorable reviews. Websites are also used to display book reviews on specific topics by individuals or associations. Examples include the Task Force for Veterinary Science Website [1] that publishes reviews of alternative veterinary medicine books and the Society for General Microbiology that compiles critical reviews of new books in microbiology from two of their journals [2]. Online-only journals, such as Veterinary Sciences Tomorrow: An Online Current Awareness Journal [3], are also a source of book reviews.

Important books in veterinary medicine have been identified by the frequency with which they occurred in reading lists, selected bibliographies, and library catalogs. Professional organizations such as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [4] and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) [5] publish reading lists of recommended veterinary medical books for study by foreign-trained veterinarians seeking licenses to practice. Certifying bodies such as the European Veterinary Dental College [6] and the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology [7] publish subject-specific bibliographies to assist members studying for board examinations in veterinary specialties.

Also, faculty and librarians create useful bibliographies to support the curricula of their institutions. One example is the Veterinary Ethics Bibliography [8] created by the Webster Veterinary Library of Tufts University. Government agencies also publish bibliographies; an example is the bibliography published by the
National Academies’ Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) and made available on the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWICS) Website [9].

Catalogs from veterinary medicine libraries in Europe and North America, including the Library of Congress and National Library of Medicine, were searched for titles that matched those from selected reading lists and book reviewing sources.

Titles selected were assigned to subject categories, and relevant segments of the bibliography were then sent to faculty, graduate students, and librarians of several North American veterinary medical schools for review and comment. Depending on their areas of study, reviewers received one or more sections. Feedback from these individuals was used to determine which titles would be included in the final version of the bibliography. Reviewers preferred to comment only on the titles in those categories closest to their areas of study. For example, small animal veterinary surgeons reviewed the appropriate titles from the surgery list (excluding large animal and exotics titles) and commented on titles from the small animal medicine list. Each category was reviewed by more than one subject specialist, and the entire bibliography was reviewed by three veterinary medicine librarians and one faculty member. Unfortunately, a number of recommended titles had to be removed from the bibliography, because they were found to be either out-of-print or difficult to obtain.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography has been divided into thirty-four categories representing preclinical and clinical subjects that constitute the discipline of veterinary medicine (Table 1). These categories were chosen after consulting a variety of resources, including the curricula of several AVMA-accredited veterinary medical schools in North America, the collection development policies from the National Library of Medicine and from several veterinary libraries in Canada and the United States, and two well-known subject bibliographies. “The Joint Collection Development Policy for Veterinary Science,” written by the National Library of Medicine, was consulted [10]. Bibliographies from the medical literature were also examined; namely, the “Print Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library 2003” [11] and the fourth edition of The Core Collection of Medical Books and Journals [12]. Because this is the first edition of “Veterinary Medicine Books Recommended for Academic Libraries,” categories will be modified as necessary in future updates.

Basic bibliographic data, including publishers’ names are derived from Library of Congress cataloguing records. Editions listed in the bibliography are current at the time of writing. Forthcoming editions are not included. Where two or more persons are responsible for authorship, the first author or editor is identified; “[AND OTHERS]” indicates additional authors. The appendix is an author/editor index. Where a CD-ROM version of the print title exists, “Also CD-ROM” is indicated, even though the bibliography consists of print books rather than other formats. The primary focus of the bibliography is veterinary medical monographs; however, some essential biomedical titles have been included in some categories, as indicated by the notation “Biomedical title” in the bibliography. The scope of the bibliography is limited to print monographs; however, an evaluative list of digital-only resources—including personal digital assistants (PDAs), electronic books, and Websites in veterinary medicine—will be included in a future edition of this bibliography.

The bibliography lists 419 titles, 298 (or 72%) of which were published in 1998 or later. Prices were derived from publishers’ Websites and current catalogs. Where hardcover and paperback versions of the same title exist, the hardcover price was used. Three entries in the bibliography do not include price information, because they represent multipart publications that are listed once, with no bundled prices. These entries are Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals by the National Academies Press, Veterinary Clinics of North America by W. B. Saunders Co., and the fascicles of the WHO International Histological Classification of Tumours of Domestic Animals. Prices for all entries, (excluding the three titles mentioned above), are listed in US dollars, except where another currency is noted. To calculate the total cost of books in the bibliography, all currencies were converted to US dollars. The total cost of all books in the bibliography is $43,602.13 US.

Although Veterinary Clinics of North America (published in four sections) has an assigned ISSN, it is considered to be equivalent to a monographic series for the purposes of this bibliography. For the most part, subject encyclopedias are included in the subject lists, while general dictionaries are grouped together; for example, The Encyclopedia of Toxicology by Wexler appears in the “Toxicology” list while Black’s Veterinary Dictionary appears in the “Reference” section.

REFERENCES


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Subject categories from the veterinary medicine bibliography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternative veterinary medicine</td>
<td>Laboratory animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesia</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avian and poultry medicine</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Parasitology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency and critical care</td>
<td>Primatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>Public health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine medicine</td>
<td>Radiology and imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence-based medicine</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic and wildlife medicine</td>
<td>Small animal medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food animal medicine</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>Theriogenology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human-animal bond</td>
<td>Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>Veterinary Profession</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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Veterinary profession

APPENDIX

FIRST AUTHOR/EDITOR INDEX

| Abbott, Jonathan A. | 56 |
| Acha, Pedro N. | 313 |
| Ackerman, Lowell J. | 151 |
| Adams, H. Richard | 287 |
| Adams, Stephen B. | 359 |
| Agur, Anne M. R. | 4 |
| Aiello, Susan E. | 135 |
| Albright, J. L., | 44 |
| Allen, Daniel G. | 288 |
| Allman, Robert B. | 34 |
| Anderson, Roy C. | 289 |
| Askew, Henry R. | 45 |
| Auer, Jorg A. | 6 |
| Baker, Rebecca | 258 |
| Baker, Anne S. | 243 |
| Baker, Rebecca | 258 |
| Banks, William J. | 5 |
| Bargar, Uri | 317 |
| Barth, A. D. | 382 |
| Beale, Brian | 361 |
| Bennett, B. Taylor | 309, 310 |
| Berek, Ross P. | 137 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 299 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
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| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |
| Berne, Robert M. | 300 |

Veterinary medicine books

J Med Libr Assoc 92(4) October 2004 487

Houp, Katherine Albro, 49
Howard, Jim E., 139
Hugh-Jones, Martin E., 315
Hulley, Stephen B., 93
Hungerford, Laura, 208
Iversen, Cheryl, 338
Jablonski, Stanley, 339
Jackson, Peter G. C., 388
Jensen, P. C., 50
Johnston, Shirley D., 389
Jones, Susan D., 164
Jones, Thomas Carlyle, 271
Joussimies-Somer, Hannele R., 209
Jubb, K. V. F., 272
Kandel, Eric R., 13
Kane, J. Jerry, 303
Katzung, Bertram G., 290
Kaufmann, Johannes, 248
Kay, William J., 165
Kealy, Kevin, 326
Keeling, L. J., 51
Kettle, D. S., 249
King, Lesley, 86
King, Robert C., 157
Kitchell, Ralph L., 181
Kittleson, Mark D., 59
Klaassen, Curtis D., 403
Knecht, Charles D., 367
Knight, Anthony P., 404
Knobil, Ernst, 390
Knottenbelt, Derek C., 109
Krinke, George J., 182
Kumar, V., 250
Kumar, Vinay, 273
Laber-Laird, Kathy, 127
Laboratory Animal Pocket Reference Series, 183
Lagoni, Laurel S., 166
Larone, Davise H., 210
Last, John M., 94
Latimer, Kenneth S., 274
Lawson, Andrew B., 95
Lewis, Austin J., 225
Lewis, Lon D., 226
Lindsay, Steven R., 52
Lipowitz, Alan J., 368
Loeb, Walter F., 184
Lorenz, Michael D., 352
Lorgue, G., 405
Lumb, Andrew, 23
Macpherson, Calum N. L., 316
Maddison, Jill E., 291
Mader, Douglas R., 128
Mair, Tim, 369
Marompot, Robert, 275
Marquardt, William C., 251
Martin, Mike W. S., 60, 61
Martin, S. Wayne, 96
Martin, W. B., 139
McConnell, Vicki C., 292
McCracken, Thomas O., 14
McDonald, P. T., 227
McDowell, Lee Russell, 228
McEntee, Kenneth, 276
McGavin, M. Donald, 277
McCullough, C. Wayne, 370, 371
McKeeer, Patrick J., 78
McKelvey, Diane, 24
McKinnon, Angus O., 391
Medleau, Linda, 79
Mehlhorn, Heinz, 252
Meredith, Anna, 129
Meuten, Donald J., 278
Miller, Ronald D., 25
Mills, D. S., 53
Mims, Cedric A., 211
Mitchell, Paul Q., 70
Moats, William A., 406
Moberg, G. P., 185
Mohr, U., 186, 187
Moore, Keith L., 15
Morgan, Joe P., 327
Morrison, Wallace B., 353
Muir III, William M., 26
Mullen, Gary, 253
Muller, M. E., 372
Murphy, Frederick A., 212
Murphy, Michael J. A., 407
Murray, Patrick R., 130
National Research Council Staff, 188, 189, 190, 191, 311, 312
Nelson, Richard W., 354
Newman, Michael G., 71
Nicholas, F. W., 158
Nielsen, Leon, 130
Nixon, Alan J., 373
Noordhuizen, J.P.T.M., 97
Nyland, Thomas G., 328
Ogilvie, Gregory K., 355
Olfert, Ernest D., 192
Olsen, Wallace C., 340
Opperman, Mark, 417
Ostrander, Gary K., 193
Osweiler, Gary D., 408
Overall, Karen L., 54
Owens, Jerry M., 329
Paddleford, Robert R., 27
Pascoe, Reginald R., 80
Pasquini, Chris, 16
Patience, J. F., 229
Paul, William E., 169
Pavletic, Michael M., 374
Peakman, Mark, 170
Peiffer Jr., Robert L., 237, 238
Percy, Dean H., 279
Perry, Tilden, 230
Peterson, Michael E., 409
Pettie, Aviva, 98
Piermattei, Donald L., 375, 376
Pineda, M. H., 392
Plumb, Donald C., 293
Plumlee, Konnie H., 410
Plunkett, Signe J., 87
Pocock, Stuart J., 99
Podolsky, M. Lawrence, 194
Pond, Wilson G., 140, 231
Poole, Trevor, 195
Porter, Valerie, 341
Prescott, John F., 294
Profit, William R., 72
Pugh, D. G., 141
Ptycock, Jonathan F., 393
Quinn, P. J., 215, 216
Radosits, Otto M., 142, 143, 144
Ramey, David W., 43
Randall, David, 304
Rantanen, Norman W., 330
Raskin, Rose E., 280
Rateitschak, Klaus H., 73
Reeve, William O., 305
Reed, Stephen M., 110
Reef, Virginia B., 331
Regan, Tom., 196
Regezi, Joseph A., 74
Reinhardt, Viktor, 197
Riddell, C., 38
Riebold, Thomas W., 28
Rii, Ronald C., 239
Rijnberk, Adam, 394
Ritchie, Branson W., 39
Ritschel, Wolfgang A., 295
Roberts, Ronald J., 281
Robinson, N. Edward, 111
Roder, Joseph D., 411
Roi, Ivan M., 171
Rollin, Bernard E., 418
Romich, Janet Amundson, 342
Rose, Noel R., 172
Rose, Reuben J., 112
Ross, Mike W., 113, 377
Rossoff, I. S., 412
Rothman, Kenneth J., 100
Rowland, Malcolm, 296
Russell, W. M. S., 198
Sackett, David O., 199
Sadler, T. W., 17
Saif, Y. M., 40
Sainsbury, David, 41
Salyers, Abigail A., 217
Samour, Jaime, 42
Samuel, William S., 254
Schaeffer, Dorcas O., 199
Schebitz, H., 332
Schoen, Allen M., 2
Scott, Danny W., 81, 82
Scriven, Charles R., 159
Selvin, Steve, 101
Senger, P. L., 395
Severin, Glenn A., 240
Simmon, Gillian, 396
Singer, Peter A. D., 200
Slatter, Douglas, 241, 378
Slaunton, David O., 282
Smith, Morgan, 255
Smith, Alison, 201
Smith, Bradford P., 145
Smith, Mary C., 146
Smith, Ronald D., 102
Specht, Neil T., 333
Sperelakis, Nicholas, 306
Spnenberg, D. Phillip, 160
Stashak, Ted S., 114
Stedman, Thomas Lathrop, 343
Stockham, Steven L., 283
Stoskopf, Michael K., 131
Straw, Barbara E., 147
Strieger, David L., 103
Summers, Brian A., 284
Sundberg, John P., 202
Swaim, Steven F., 379
Swenson, Melvin J., 307
Swindle, M. Michael, 30
Swinosw, T.D.V., 104
Tams, Todd R., 380
Tannerbaum, Jerrold, 419
Taylor, Polly M., 31
Thacker, P. A., 232
Thrall, Donald E., 334
Thrusfield, Michael, 105
Thurmon, John C., 32, 33
Tilley, Larry Patrick, 62, 63, 356
Timoney, John F., 218
Tizard, Ian R., 173
Toma, Bernard, 106
Turner, Dennis C., 55
Underwood, E. J., 233
Urquhart, G. M., 256
Vet Clin of North Am, Equine Pract, 115
Vet Clinics of North America, Exotic Animal Practice, 132
Vet Clinics of North America, Food Animal Practice, 148
Vet Clinics of North America, Small Animal Practice, 357
Wall, Richard, 257
Ward, Jerrold Michael, 285
Waynforth, H. B., 203
Webster, Cynthia R. L., 297
West, D. M., 149
West, John B., 308
Wedler, Philip, 413
White, Nathaniel A., 381
Whitford, Howard W., 219
Whittemore, Colin, 150
Whittow, G. Causey, 43
Wiggs, Robert Bruce, 75
Wilkie, Patricia J., 161
Wilkinson, George T., 83
Williams, Elizabeth S., 133
Williams, Phillip J., 414
Willis, Malcolm B., 162
Wingfield, Wayne E., 88
Withrow, Stephen J., 388
Wobeser, Gary A., 134
World Health Organization, 286
Wynn, Susan G., 3
Youngquist, Robert S., 397