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PRINCIPLES OF EQUINE DENTISTRY
Editor: D. O. Klugh
Publisher: Manson Publishing
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Principles of Equine Dentistry is a new multi-author text covering equine dentistry. The content is primarily aimed at the veterinary surgeon practising equine dentistry, covering oral examination and routine maintenance as well as more advanced aspects of veterinary surgery such as extractions, periodontal disease, restorative dentistry and endodontics. The style of the book, whilst slightly dated, remains easy to access with clear division into well organised chapter and paragraph sections.

The book’s principle author is Dr David Klugh. He is widely known for his expertise in the field of equine dentistry and was the first holder of the recently established equine track fellowship from the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry in the USA. His approach to equine dentistry within this book reflects the direction and high standards that this qualification demands and as such should be considered a standard text for anyone considering taking the fellowship examination.

It is very evident reading the text that this is predominantly an American author list. The drugs listed, equipment used and extent of certain procedures undertaken reflect the slightly different approach taken in the USA when compared to the UK and Europe. This is particularly evident within the chapter on occlusal equilibration where approaches to correcting overgrowths and performing bit seats could be considered excessive, particularly in the light of recent research performed by the group at Edinburgh University.

A chapter of interest to all veterinary surgeons practising equine dentistry is that written by Dr Michael Lowder on oral extraction. The detailed description of the techniques backed up by beautifully clear illustrations makes it easy for the reader to understand the instruments, procedures and techniques. It is essential reading for all surgeons considering oral extractions even those experienced in the technique.

The chapters on periodontal disease, restorative dentistry and endodontics cover their subjects by emphasising the similarities between these diseases in horses, other domestic animals and in man. The pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment options described clearly reflect the opinions of the author regarding this area. This will be a new approach to many readers and undoubtedly further research is warranted to evaluate this in greater detail. It is slightly disappointing, though, that significant aspects of pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment, which have been the subject of recent research, have been overlooked. This is most apparent within the chapter on equine periodontal disease. In concentrating on the comparative science, a significant number of published peer-reviewed articles on the subject of equine periodontal disease have been overlooked. Over the past few years, published research from several authors has been focusing on the relationship with food accumulation at the interproximal space due to conformational diastemata and periodontal disease. It is therefore, a noticeable omission that this receives only a very small paragraph towards the end of the chapter, with no associated discussion or detail for the reader on this problem and the techniques to address it.

Overall, this book will be a useful resource for veterinary surgeons practising equine dentistry and presents an alternative approach to many challenges faced within this field. The approach adopted is thought provoking and is certainly a worthy purchase for any practice library, particularly for the chapter on oral extractions.

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The equine dentition (hypsodont) develops differently from that of humans and small animals (brachyodont) yet many of the principles of general dentistry are applicable to the equine species. Some are not. Dr. Klugh and his contributing authors identify, apply and evaluate the principles of equine dentistry in relation to the horse—their similarities and differences. Such a system is of value in terms of vocabulary, biology and disease process. The book's coverage ranges from anatomy, biomechanics and examination to radiology, anesthesia, trauma, disease and restoration. Top quality colour p