medication and saline containers is of concern. Further study is required to quantify the risks to patients. Infection control practices aimed at reducing the risk of contamination of multiple-dose containers should be considered by veterinary hospitals.

References


Book Review

Comppte rendu de livre

The Year in Small Animal Medicine, Volume 1


Those of you who are used to watching highlight packages instead of the entire game will appreciate the format and content of The Year In Small Animal Medicine Volume 1. Although the book lacks an introduction stating its objectives, the title and layout show it to be a current review of significant advances in small animal medicine across 15 disciplines. The title may be somewhat misleading in that there are chapters on both soft tissue and orthopedic surgery. Specialties such as critical care and reproduction are included, while other disciplines such as dentistry and behavior are not. A contributor who is prominent in that field compiles each chapter.

The authors begin each chapter by explaining the recent direction that their particular discipline has taken, thus setting the stage for the papers they have chosen to review. That is followed by a summary and interpretation of the individual articles (well annotated) that the contributors felt were worthy of inclusion. For example, in the chapter on endocrinology, 10 published articles are reviewed and the author then reaches several conclusions that could influence the general practitioner in his or her management of such conditions as feline hyperthyroidism (transdermal methimazole is effective and leads to better compliance than twice daily pilling) and canine diabetes (home monitoring of glucose curves led to different recommendations than hospital curves in 42% of the cases monitored and glycemic control was better when decisions were based on home curves). As evidenced, most of the information presented and discussed is quite practical and applicable to general practice.

This volume is aimed at the practitioner who wants to be current on published information but lacks the time to read individual journals and ferret out the most important advances. Those who are widely read, therefore, will find little new here but can still enjoy the interpretation of the contributing authors.

There are inherent weaknesses in books being offered as selective reviews. As stated by contributing author Adrian Boswood (Cardiology), “It is not possible in a review chapter to do justice to the wide variety of articles published over a 12- to 18-month period. The choice of the above articles is as much a reflection of my own areas of interest and bias as it is the individual significance of the articles chosen for review.”

While it does fill a niche and will appeal strongly to some, this is not a book a practitioner would reach for frequently in the same way as the Five Minute Consult Series that also condenses information, but over a greater time frame and in a more comprehensive way. As such, I would be inclined to access The Year in Small Animal Medicine from the library, as opposed to purchasing it for my clinic shelf.

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