

Book Reviews

Key Questions in Animal Behaviour and Welfare: A Study and Revision Guide

PA Rees (2022). Published by CABI Publishing, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK. 256 pages Paperback (ISBN: 978-1789248975). Price £13.07.

As a lecturer who has recently taken over a large module on animal behaviour partly assessed through multiple choice questions (MCQs) and knowing how difficult it is to write good MCQs, let alone have spare left over for students to practice, I leapt at the chance to review this book.

As the blurb states, it is aimed at students and could be a very good study/revision guide. It covers a range of commonly covered (indeed essential) topics on animal behaviour and welfare and comprises three levels of question difficulty.

While it is all MCQs, there is the opportunity to look up the correct answers in the back, which importantly gives additional detail and rationale to that being the correct answer. Thus, integrating feedback and indeed additional knowledge acquisition.

A broad range of animal categories are used in the examples: companion, farm, wild, zoo and lab, making the content appealing to a range of students. For example, on our modules we have to find examples of relevance to animal scientists, zoologists, biologists through to environmental scientists and agriculture students. There are however some examples that are rather specific to, what I imagine, Paul Rees has used in his lectures. So, if you are a lecturer, recommend this book to your students with the caveat that they are not expected to know all the examples (or, more importantly, that as a lecturer you are not selling them short if you have not given those examples: we might not all have covered comparisons between hippopotamus' and domestic cats' social habits, or equations to calculate indices of association). Explain to the students that this is a learning opportunity to go away and find out more. There are lots of interesting examples, and even as a book of MCQs you are drawn into the quizzes to test your own knowledge and learn more.

The section on issues with experimental design is very good especially for students planning animal behaviour-based dissertations to gain confidence that they understand methods of measurement and experimental design.

Much work has been expended at my university to seek to decolonise the curriculum: to try to ensure that those individuals flagged as key contributors to the discipline are increasingly role models that we can all identify with, from a variety of backgrounds and areas of the globe. We are trying to move away from using names of scientists as 'fathers' of a topic or even key contributors (who knew Darwin had such thoughts about the intelligence of women and other races), so it is worth noting that many scientists are named in the book and

credited with their theories, which could be seen as not embracing the 'decol' curriculum.

Leaving this aside, I will be recommending that our library get copies of this book and hopefully it will be possible to digitalise some of these questions into our Virtual Learning Environment to entice students to use the resource which will help them engage and develop confidence in their knowledge and its application.

Overall, I think this is a very useful book of thought-provoking questions and explanations, helping students and academics alike. The questions are a culmination of a lot of pedagogic enterprise, which is now available for others to use. Well done Paul Rees and thank you for sharing.

Catherine Douglas, Newcastle University, UK

Preslaughter Handling and Slaughter of Meat Animals

Edited by L Faucitano (2022). Published by Wageningen Publishers, PO Box 220, 6700 AE Wageningen, The Netherlands. 436 pages Hardback (ISBN: 978-90-8686-372-3). Price €99.00.

This textbook provides a science-based overview and detailed description of procedures and management typical for the pre-slaughter period, as well as stunning and killing, in several animal species destined for meat production.

The book consists of ten well-written chapters, covering the scientific knowledge about slaughter and the pre-slaughter period for farmed fishes (the animal group slaughtered in highest numbers), mammalian and avian species traditionally included in human diets (cattle, pigs, horses, sheep, broilers, end-of-lay hens and turkeys) as well as minor species, such as game, ostriches, kangaroos and South American camelids.

Across the involved species, the book describes the final phase in the lives of the animals, including aspects relevant for animal welfare, meat quality, hygiene and productivity. The concern for animal welfare is not always given first priority in the written recommendations (eg in terms of pre-slaughter feed withdrawal or use of lairage). This, however, leaves the book practically relevant, as concerns for animal welfare typically do not stand-alone in real life either. Thus, even though it — at first glance — may seem surprising that 'animal welfare' is not included in the title of the book, it is fully justified by the practical approach and the integrated agenda of the book.

As regards to content, the book is divided into three parts — a first chapter reviewing how aspects of animal welfare and stress can be quantified across species by use of behavioural, physiological and carcase/meat quality measures. The second part consists of eight chapters, each covering one or a few animal species, and each describing