

# BOOK REVIEW

*Jones's Animal Nursing*, 4th Edition, D.R. Lane, Editor. Pergamon Press, Elmsford, New York, 1985, paperback \$38.00, hardcover \$69.00, 706 pages.

*Jones's Animal Nursing* is advertised as a text which "covers the whole area of small animal nursing." The text is strictly directed toward technicians who are working with companion animals (including birds and laboratory rodents); there are no sections dealing with large animal nursing; The book covers a wide gamut of topics in small animal nursing, unfortunately, many significant subject areas are dealt with in such brevity as to render those sections useless.

The book's weakest areas are those dealing with the technical aspects of small animal nursing. The sections on the performance of laboratory procedures and collection of laboratory samples are woefully inadequate. A typical example is the text dealing with the performance of a white blood cell count with a differential. The use of a Neubauer chamber for determining a total white blood cell count is described without the benefit of illustrations. The lack of an illustration makes comprehension of this procedure unduly difficult if not impossible. There are no pictures or illustrations accompanying the written

descriptions of the various types of white blood cells, and the differentiation between mature neutrophils (segmented) and immature neutrophils (bands) is not even addressed. It would be unreasonable to expect a student technician to be able to perform a white blood cell count with a differential if this book were the technician's only reference.

The book's strongest sections are those dealing with infectious and parasitic diseases. The section on parasitic life cycles will be valuable reading for many graduate veterinarians, as well as technicians. The section on infectious disease is concise and very comprehensible; however, it suffers greatly from the omission of vaccination protocols and time tables.

The organization of the book is adequate. The inclusion of a glossary is a big plus. The major flaw in the format is the lack of adequate illustrations and pictures.

I cannot recommend this book to private practice veterinarians or their technicians. This book may find a place as an introductory or a general overview text for veterinary technician training programs.

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