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Book Review

Handbook of Equine Parasite Control, M.K. Nielsen, C.R. Reinemeyer. 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell (2018). pp. 229.

This is the second edition of the Handbook of Equine Parasite Control, edited by M.K. Nielsen and C.R. Reinemeyer. The list of contributors includes D. Leathwick and C. Sauermann. All authors that contributed to this book are internationally recognised specialists in this field. The text remains informative, without any unnecessary details, throughout the book. The content is based on commonly accepted and previously published knowledge updated with modern aspects. The reader is significantly assisted in the understanding of the content with the aid of colourful pictures, figures and tables presenting the main characteristics of each case.

The handbook contains 4 sections (I: Internal parasites and factors affecting their transmission, II: Principles of equine parasite control, III: Diagnosis and assessment of parasitologic information and IV: Case histories), along with the Glossary at the end.

The first section (pages 1–68) of the book deals with all important internal equine parasites providing a full description of their biology and life cycles, for many of them combined with high quality pictures and figures. The pathogenic mechanisms specific to various internal parasites and their potential clinical manifestation or impact on performance are presented in this section. The section finally includes a full analysis of environmental, host and parasite factors affecting parasite transmission.

The second section (pages 69–109) includes the main principles for equine parasite control. One of the main advantages of this book is that it provides important definitions to assist the novice reader to fully follow and understand the presented concepts. The main chapters of this section deal with parasite control or reduced transmission using non-chemical means, chemical (pharmaceutical) control and an overview of anthelmintic resistance. The main groups of anthelmintics are presented with their mode and mechanisms of action and practical field strategies to avoid the development of resistance in the horse farm.

The third section (pages 111–161) is devoted to diagnosis and assessment of parasitological information, including the main diagnostic techniques for qualitative and quantitative recovery of parasitic elements. Furthermore, methods to detect anthelmintic resistant strains are presented. The section finally includes advice on how to collect a proper parasitologic history based on critical questions and the synopsis of evidence-based parasite control. The latter is essential in the frame of the emergence of new knowledge and the development of new diagnostic tools.

The last (fourth) section (pages 163–220) includes 22 cases based on real practical scenarios guiding the equine practitioner to employ combined knowledge from different disciplines. All cases cover different practical dilemmas which veterinarians may face at the farm.

Finally, the Glossary provides explanation for terms used in the book for those among the readers, who are less familiar with the equine parasitology world. The definitions are clearly written and easy to comprehend, saving time spent for searching for the terms explanation.

Overall, the book would be handy and very helpful for the equine practitioner, as well as veterinary parasitologists and students. It is an excellent contribution to the field of equine parasitology.

Conflict of interest

Both authors declare no conflict of interest.

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