
The authors are to be commended for their second edition, which follows 9 years after their first and incorporates several important improvements. The major changes include more illustrations, expansion of two chapters and the index, and a more current bibliography. Each chapter bibliography now consists of references primarily from the 1960s and 1970s, although a few from the 1980s are included. The authors claim that 500 new references have been added. Another change for the better is the refreshingly honest omission of the claim in the preface of the first edition that “this text is designed to cover the field of animal anesthesia as completely as possible.”

Nearly all of the 300 illustrations are high quality. The major exceptions occur in chapter 3, “Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel,” in which many figures are very fuzzy and out of focus. The illustration facing page 234 shows the color of oxygen tanks as green. While that may be accurate for the United State, it is not the international color, which is white.

The structure of the book is logical and easy to follow. The first two general chapters are followed by one on facilities, equipment, and personnel; three on physiology; and another on oxygen, drugs, and specific anesthetic techniques. The last six chapters deal with monitoring, emergencies, after care, statistics, and euthanasia.

The problem of hyperthermia of wild animals during restraint is mentioned but receives inadequate discussion. There was adequate information regarding many recently introduced drugs, and even including perfluorochemical emulsions.

A list of all subheadings is included on the first page of each chapter. This is very helpful in scanning for topics. The index is also very useful. The type is clear and the book is very legible.

Overall, the book is very readable. I recommend it to both veterinary anesthesiologists and the physicians who have occasion to administer anesthesia to animals.

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