

News in the veterinary medicine

Laboratory animal anaesthesia. Flecknell P. A. Academic Press, London. 1987; pp.255; ISBN 0-12-260360-5.

The author reviewed the newest medicines and techniques of anaesthetizing laboratory animals. What is new and rare in comparison with other similar works about animals is that this book describes the care applicable before an operation, the adoption of which protect from possible complications during the time of anaesthesia.

In the first part of the book the problem of local and general anaesthetizing are treated separately. This part provides with the description of basic equipment, and drugs in use divided into groups of those to inhale and those to inject. It contains the detailed procedure of anaesthesia, the animals' behaviour as well as the functioning of their metabolism at that time. It is also suggested how to react in case of recording some of physiological functions.

Next chapter is devoted to special treatments like, for example, long-term anaesthesia, or anaesthesia of pregnant and new-born animals.

After an operational intervention an animal requires special care consisting in securing it suitable environmental conditions, and, if necessary, easing the pain by the use of analgesics.

In the last chapter, the most significant one from the pragmatistical point of view, the author recommends how to anesthetize various experimental animals, such as: small rodents, rabbits, dogs, cats, pigs, ferrets, and primates. In this part he described patent medicines which prepare an animal before an operation, anesthetic specifics, dosage, and the technique of drug administration recommendable for various laboratory animals.

The book has got five appendices. In the first one the basic physiological parameters for each species of the experimental animals, the recommendable analgesic and anesthetic specifics, their administration, and antibacterial drugs are specified. Appendix No. 2 contains a table of drugs designed in the alphabetical order, and dosage for three groups of experimental animals. In appendix No. 3a English, American and commercial names of specifics, as well as their producers from Great Britain and The United States are presented. Appendix No. 3b contains the addresses of manufacturers of discussed drugs. In appendix No. 4 the basic laboratory equipment necessary for anesthetizing is described, and appendix No. 5 provides with the names and addresses of procedures and distributors of such equipment.

The advantage of this book is a thorough presentation of the question of animal anaesthesia which covers also preoperative treatment and postoperative care. It is important too that data concerning anaesthesia all the widely used experimental animals are gathered in publication. This work is written intelligibly, so it can be used by scientists and technicians with no specialistic medical training. The order of chapters is logical, gradually introducing a reader into the question of anaesthesia. Its author described a board spectrum of the newest drugs recommending simultaneously the proper choices for particular kinds of laboratory animals.

Practical and helpful is listing the English, American and commercial of the drugs, and the addresses of their distributors.

Since there is no such versatile publication on Polish market, it would be very beneficial to have the book translated into Polish so that it could be widely used in our laboratories utilizing experimental animals.

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