



the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. The main initiative for developing the project and publishing the book is to assist scientific investigators and veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals in the identi-

fication of landmarks and features of various anatomic structures for use in veterinary practice and in research-related procedures, such as blood collection, injections, surgery, and necropsy. The book is rather comprehensive because it covers all organ systems in both mice and rats. Illustrations for each species are placed side by side to aid in understanding comparative rodent anatomy. The book covers males and females of both species and diverse age groups, from neonates at various days after birth to juveniles and finally to adults. Because the book is expertly illustrated, it provides exquisite detail of every organ system, proceeding from external to internal and cranial to caudal. Then, the dissection of each organ is described and the substructures are labeled. There is

also a substantial amount of text that accompanies the illustrations, which provides readers with additional detail to supplement the visual aids. Because the book focuses on facilitation of biomedical research procedures, important areas such as the neck, tail, and limbs are given substantial attention, which again makes it a perfect reference for training of research staff and animal care and use staff. A few additional features that make the book a valuable resource is that it is spiral bound; thus, it lays flat for viewing on laboratory bench tops, in biosafety cabinets, and on other surfaces. It has plenty of blank space around the illustrations for additional notes and comments by readers. Finally, the book is fairly priced. In fact, for the amount of illustrative work provided by the veterinary anatomist, I strongly believe that this book is a bargain for the quality and content it provides. I reiterate that this book will have application to a wide audience who use rodents in biomedical research, although I caution neuroscientists that the section on neuroanatomy is limited and other atlases that focus solely on the rodent brain in cross section are available and are a more appropriate resource.—By *Gheorghe M. Constantinescu*. 261 pages; illustrated. *American Association of Laboratory Animal Science*, 9190 Crestwyn Hills Dr, Memphis, TN 38125. ISBN 978-0-9789207-2-2. 2011. Price \$125.00.

Book Reviews: For Your Client's Library

Caring for Family Pets: Choosing and Keeping Our Companion Animals Healthy

Reviewed by Kimberlee Buck, DVM, DABVP



Caring for Family Pets: Choosing and Keeping Our Companion Animals Healthy is intended as a guide for pet owners. It contains excellent advice on choosing and caring for a variety of pets, including dogs, cats, birds, and small mammals. The chapters provide valuable, realistic insights as to the pros and cons of various pets and the responsibilities of pet ownership. I was impressed that species-specific issues are not

sugar-coated but are instead clearly addressed with information that would allow an average person to make an educated decision about owning a specific animal.

The chapter on behavior issues is extensive, covering normal behavioral development as well as the most common behavioral problems seen in dogs and cats. Proper early training and socialization are emphasized.

Another chapter addresses complementary and alternative medicine. This chapter explains the differences between veterinary and human practitioners of

complementary and alternative medicine and strongly encourages pet owners considering such treatments to consult veterinarians trained in these modalities.

Throughout the book, readers are encouraged to develop a good relationship with a veterinarian early in their pet's life and to work with that veterinarian to provide their pet with the best care possible. Each chapter also includes a reading list for owners who desire more information.

I believe this book will be a positive addition to the lending library of any veterinary clinic. It encourages responsible pet ownership and supports the veterinarian-client-patient bond.—By *Radford G. Davis*. 225 pages. *Praeger Publishers*, 130 Cremona Dr, Santa Barbara, CA 93117. 978-0-313-38527-8. 2011. Price \$48.00.

When You Have to Say Goodbye: Loving and Letting Go of Your Pet

Reviewed by Suzanne Hetts, PhD

Overall, I really like *When You Have to Say Goodbye: Loving and Letting Go of Your Pet*. It is a little book and is designed for parents to read with or to their child before or after a pet dies. Its strengths are letting children know that it is OK to feel sad and express their emotions, encouraging children to talk about and memorialize their pets, and validating what a great gift loving a pet is. I also like the subtle reference to a military parent



who may be deployed and absent. The illustrations are appealing as well.

A few minor concerns would be the use of the term “special medicine” for products used to help a pet die. Children are quite literal, and because there is a potential for a child to conclude that any medicine could help a pet or

person die, this page should be accompanied by careful clarification when read to a child. Another concern is in the examples that illustrate what children and pets

do together. I would have liked to see a few examples changed so that it does not imply that pets are always available to children and mirror a child's emotions. Pets need down time and quiet time away from children and people, and their emotional reactions are distinct from those of a child's.

Despite those issues, I believe this book is a valuable addition to any veterinarian's lending library. Talking to children about death is never easy, and this book can help facilitate that process. Some practitioners may even want to read the book with a grieving family while at the veterinary practice.—By *Monica Mansfield*. *Unpaginated; illustrated*. Beanpole Books, PO Box 242, Midway, FL 32343. ISBN 978-0-9831032-1-9. 2011. Price \$8.95.