

publisher's website as I imagine several of these would otherwise find themselves tacked to the inner cupboard of the consultation room and used as *aide-mémoires* during a busy period of nursing and veterinary consultations.

Of course, no book is perfect and the balanced book review should also touch on areas of improvement. I was a little disappointed by the engagement with the scientific literature shown throughout the book, but particularly in relation to the supporting methods of behavioural modification. The author inconsistently uses references to support claims when reporting science and this was particularly evident in this section when adjuncts mentioned were not always critically evaluated for quality of evidence. Sometimes a citation is provided, and sometimes they merely allude to the research. I found that frustrating as I would have liked to have seen the source of the claim made, particularly in relation to alpha-casozepine, where the studies undertaken to examine its efficacy are not necessarily high quality. The other area for me that was lacking in a book aimed at veterinary nursing professionals was clinical governance and its potential interplay with canine behaviour. I felt this was a pity given its centrality within the professional code of conduct for veterinary nurses (and veterinarians) within the UK, and the day one skills/competency requirements. The use of tools such as significant event auditing and clinical auditing have real potential to effect change for future patients/clients of the practice or the veterinary professional, and for monitoring application of behavioural best practice and uptake within clinical practice. However, perhaps this is a theme to consider for edition three, when these concepts have been more broadly applied to veterinary behaviour, rather than the current common focus on aspects of practice like anaesthesia and infection control!

Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to any veterinary professional working in veterinary practice, whether a student, newly qualified, or with more miles on the clock than an aged London black cab. I would also highly recommend it for the career break veterinary nurse preparing to re-enter clinical nursing, particularly one entering a role with a consulting remit. It draws on the very extensive experience and knowledge of the author and is a very cost-effective way to undertake relatively comprehensive Continuing Professional Development that will be utilised daily in clinical practice. There is something in there for everyone in practice and I am confident that, unless you are already a practicing clinical animal behaviourist, you will find something of value that can be utilised in your daily clinical role at the veterinary practice. It will also be useful to veterinary and veterinary nursing educators focusing on practical application, though with students exhorted now to demonstrate evidence-based practice as part of their day one skills, they may want to question some of the unsupported or weakly supported claims and the educator should be prepared for this.

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Health and Welfare of Brachycephalic (Flat-faced) Companion Animals, First Edition

Edited by RMA Packer and DG O'Neill (2021). Published by CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA. 418 pages Paperback (ISBN: 978-0367207243), Hardback (ISBN: 978-0367207410). Price: £36.30 (Paperback), £88.99 (Hardback), £34.48 (Kindle Edition).

I have to admit that when I was asked if I would review this book I had an initial feeling of dread because a part of me, honestly, didn't want to read it. I find it utterly soul-destroying that after a century or more of knowing about the health problems associated with this conformation we have come to a point where this book is still so necessary. However, I agreed, and I'm very glad that I did.

Almost the first thing you read on opening the book is a Darwin quote that sums up the entire problem in 17 eloquent words: "Man selects only for his own good: Nature only for that of the being which she tends." I read this and felt an immediate sense of relief. I had been a little worried that the book was going to be a cold, clinical look at what vets are facing on a daily basis in practice. So much CPD focuses on the clinical issues like BOAS and its correction but this quote made me think that I might be pleasantly surprised.

The book is divided into two parts, the second being the *Clinical viewpoints*. I'd like to tackle this first. There is absolutely no doubt that the collective expertise that this book brings to the reader is immense. If you are facing clinical issues in these patients — notably dogs — as so many vets and nurses are worldwide, then I doubt you could come up with a question or scenario that isn't covered in an in-depth and comprehensive way from ophthalmology and neurology, to BOAS surgery, to GI and dermatological issues.

The title of the book refers to companion animals but I was disappointed that there is virtually no mention of cats, rabbits or horses — all companion animals suffering from the increasing trend towards brachycephaly. With around half the rabbit population of the UK being brachycephalic and the enormous dental issues that come with this skull shape, it would have been nice to see more on the other species affected.

The huge popularity of the three most common brachycephalic dog breeds is, of course, the reason that the book is dominated by that species. So many of us talk about BOAS and so much CPD is dedicated to it but it's great to have a book that acknowledges the multitude of diseases that these animals suffer besides their respiratory difficulties. Just reading the table of contents is enough to make your heart sink for these creatures. Anyone questioning whether it is morally wrong to continue the breeding of these animals would be hard pushed to argue with this weight of evidence I think.

And, for me, this is where the book is really excellent — the first half, diplomatically entitled *Wider viewpoints*, really is a wonderful ethical discussion around the whole issue that had me immersed from the start.

It starts with a fascinating historical look at how the animals came about and became more and more extreme. Interestingly, roughly every 50 years the health issues have a large peak in interest/outrage from the veterinary community

and the public. The reason, apparently, is because within two generations humans forget what has gone before.

I've never been a fan of history but in this case it was really very engaging. Even since the early 1900s there has been huge conflict between breeders and the show community and the veterinary profession. I think many of us still feel that this is the case. There will, I suppose, always be an inevitable conflict between those prioritising looks and those prioritising health.

The book has a detailed look into ethical dilemmas and how different moral philosophers would characterise these struggles. It asks the question, "What will be gained if I speak up?" I think this is deeply pertinent to so many of us.

There is an excellent section, in answer to this, on how you *can* approach these health problems with your clients. We are so often playing catch-up when first presented with a new puppy. The owner has had hours with a breeder, often done no research, and it can be enormously difficult to raise the issues without alienating them on that first contact. The advice with regards to this is really very good.

I loved the section on the importance of nurses and nurse clinics. I believe that good nurses are the absolute cornerstone of veterinary practice and are often underused. This section looks not only at how nurse clinics could help with care of these animals but prevention of issues as well. This is a real opportunity to bond clients you might worry about losing.

At the time of writing only around 13% of practices were offering free pre-purchase advice. This really needs to change if we are to have any hope of dissuading prospective owners and improving animal welfare. Nurses are very probably the key to this.

This *Wider viewpoints* section for me was unexpected and absolutely superb. Anyone with an interest in ethics and welfare as well as clinical education will love it, I'm sure. I was pleased to say that at the very least the book is clear from the outset that we really should be talking to clients about this and have the courage to speak up.

What's missing besides the other species? I hold my hands up and confess to being possibly the wrong person for this review as my beliefs are entrenched, but it is me so I can only write it from my point of view. I'm often contacted by vets who are suffering mental health issues related to the deluge of these animals in their clinics. They feel powerless and overwhelmed. I would have liked to have seen more mention of this. I feel it's a significant mental burden on an already fragile profession that we shouldn't ignore. I would also like to have seen more ethical debate around the subject of reproduction. Personally, I believe that it is deeply ethically questionable to perpetuate breeds, through veterinary intervention, that are not only almost certain to suffer but that are incapable of reproducing naturally.

As I said at the start, I find it very sad that, after around 150 years of vets and welfare organisations trying to change the trend for brachycephaly, this book has still had to be written. BUT, given our current circumstances, we absolutely need it. We need the clinical education but we, very much, also need to consider the deeper issues, which this book certainly does. Rowena and Dan should be rightly proud of this work and the

outstanding expertise they have gathered to bring it together. Whether we like the *status quo* or not, this book is an essential and invaluable resource for anyone working with these animals or interested in the wider ethics of such extreme conformation.

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Broom and Fraser's Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare, Sixth Edition

DM Broom (2021). Published by CABI, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK. 545 pages Paperback (ISBN: 978-1789248784), Hardback (ISBN: 978-1789249835). Price £44.99 (Paperback), £94.99 (Hardback).

The Broom and Fraser book on domestic animal behaviour and welfare is a classic tome, which many of us have frequented in one or more of its many previous versions. The first edition dates back to 1974 and, like the two subsequent editions (1980 and 1990), covered farm animals only. From the 4th edition, published in 2007, it was enlarged to comprise all (or most) domestic animals.

This latest and 6th edition has been revised by Professor Emeritus Don Broom alone, as Professor Andrew Fraser passed away in September 2021 at the age of 94. The book has been modernised in its layout, with most if not all figures re-drawn or re-coloured to give a very professional and unified look. The structure of the book is similar to previous editions, with the initial group of chapters introducing welfare concepts and their assessment, as well as fundamental aspects of behaviour and their measurements. The next 14 chapters are grouped into topics covering organisation of behaviour and specific types of behaviour such as social, reproductive, and parental behaviour. This is followed by eight chapters on different welfare topics, such as transport, stunning and slaughter, and abnormal behaviour. Finally, the remaining chapters cover the welfare of the main farm animal and companion species but not laboratory species such as rats and mice.

The back cover advertises a completely updated and revised edition, and with new chapters or sections on climate change, sustainability, ethics, philosophy, big data, modern technologies, brain function, and emotion — as well as of course behaviour and welfare. For this reason, the 6th edition is 100 pages longer than its predecessor published in 2015. And, indeed, many recent references have been added, and review papers are often mentioned at the end of paragraphs and sections whenever relevant, which is useful for further, more in-depth reading. In addition, some scientific articles and books are suggested at the end of each chapter, guiding the reader to other sources of information.

The glossary has moved to the front as a reminder to the reader that it may be prudent to refresh some of the definitions. These same definitions are repeated in the text *in italics* at the first mention of a word or concept, which makes the reading easy. I was intrigued by the definition of an animal (including humans), having never thought about such a definition before: "A living being with a nervous system and other complex