

“Humane Horse Care for Equine Wellness”

A book by Dr. Andrew Fraser

Published by Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust, 2003

Comprehensive coverage is given in this book to a wide range of topics dealing with health care for horses. It deals with ethics and rights, basic physical care, behaviour, the horse's nature, breeding, foal care and equine stress. Abnormal behaviour is given a full chapter. Bruxism is reported in this as the cause of sharp molars needing the common procedure of floating. Several other behavioural revelations are provided throughout other chapters. The overall theme is the promotion of good horse health and good accommodation of the horse's natural ways. A humane approach to horse husbandry is the fundamental note of this text, which is described as a treatise on applied horse welfare. It is well illustrated.

The book is timely in dealing with the contemporary view of wellness as the broad objective in health care. Wellness in horse health is seen as a global condition composed of the four elements of good physical condition, normal physiological factors, normal behaviour and clinical findings of good health. Preventive veterinary medicine, in the form of wellness programs, is shown as the key to maintaining horse health. This philosophy could provide a fresh attitude to horse care and the book makes a good case for this.

The author is a retired veterinarian who has had a career in veterinary practice, teaching and animal care. His experiences in these fields have obviously been fully used in this, his eleventh book.