

LANGE, WERNER: Equine Influenza: Virology, Epidemiology, Clinical Findings, Therapy and Prophylaxis. (German language). Original title: Lange, Werner: Pferdeinfluenza: Virologie, Epidemiologie, Klinik, Therapie und Prophylaxe. Parey Buchverlag, Berlin, 2000. 190 pages, 24 17 cm, 36 photographs and drawings, 28 tables. Hard plastified cover. ISBN 3-8263-3321-7. Prices: DM 86.-/ ÖS 628.-/ SFr 79.50.-

This book is aimed to provide basic knowledge and up-to-date information on equine influenza intended for veterinarians in practice. It covers all current knowledge and aspects of equine influenza collected from more than 200 references. The glossary at the end of the book helps to easily understand the subject-matter.

The book is divided in 12 chapters. Some general data on equine influenza within the scope of other animal and human influenza viruses are given in the chapter Introduction. Subsequent chapter Virology deals with nomenclature, types and subtypes, structure, biological properties, replication, reassortment and antigenic drift of the equine influenza virus. Immunological aspects (macrophages, T-lymphocytes, cytokines, antibodies and complement) of equine influenza are presented in the chapter Immunology. All relevant diagnostic procedures are discussed in the chapter Diagnosis. Laboratory diagnosis, collection of viral specimens, virus isolation and type determining, identification of viral antigens, identification of viral genome and detection of antibodies are included in that chapter. Clinical signs are described very broadly with intercurrent bacterial infections, the most important complicating factors of an influenza virus infection, treatment and practical advises how to handle the disease. The chapter Epidemiology is very informative. Major considerations include the epizootiological characteristics of infection with different subtypes, the source of the virus, the routes of transmission, immunity of the population, the spread of the infection in the world, the meaning of antigenic drift in the epizootiology of the disease, and analysis of outbreaks in Berlin. Within the chapter Ecology, the birds are elaborated as the main source of influenza viruses. Further on, interspecies transmission and the relations between human and equine influenza, as well as human and swine influenza are discussed. Prevention and control comprises many data important for veterinary practice. That includes: general features of the vaccines against influenza, immune response and protection, antigenic composition of vaccines against equine influenza, estimate of international situation, programme of vaccination, advanced development of the vaccines, new adjuvants, and new antigen presentation systems. Amantadin and other antiviral agents are presented in chapter Chemotherapy and prophylaxis. Measures for the Control are given in two chapters. References are given in the last chapter.

The book is highly informative and very useful for those working or tending to work in equine practice and wishing to keep pace with new cognitions in etiology, epidemiology, clinical findings, diagnosis, treatment and immunoprophylaxis of equine influenza.

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