

BOOK REVIEW

Edited by Richard Botzler
botzlerr@sbcglobal.net

Book reviews express the opinions of the individual authors regarding the value of the book's content for Journal of Wildlife Diseases readers. The reviews are subjective assessments and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, nor do they establish any official policy of the Wildlife Disease Association.

Hunting Hygiene. By Sauli Laaksonen and Peter Paulsen. Wageningen Academic Publishers, The Netherlands. 2015. 304 pp. ISBN-13: 978-9086862498; ISBN-10: 9086862497. USA: \$140.00; hardback.

Review by David Jessup

This book is based on a textbook in Finnish by the first author, which has been expanded and translated into English. Some material and comments pertinent to North America have been added.

As a wildlife veterinarian the most common question I got from hunters about diseases and parasites was “But, can I eat the meat?” This question makes sense and is the primary reason for examining hunter-killed animals and provides a strong secondary reason for wildlife disease investigation and surveillance in general. However, I think it would be a mistake to see this book as only containing rudimentary information aimed at answering that question. It contains much more information, and also has images of value for many or most wildlife disease professionals.

It is a very aesthetically pleasing book featuring many attractive color drawings, graphics, pictures of animals in their habitats, gross pathology images, carcass-processing pictures, and other forms of illustration. The descriptions and information are clearly and plainly written with only about as much technical language as needed and the translation to English is nearly flawless. The book represents just about the perfect compromise between writing for a general and a technical audience.

The content also represents an attempt to bridge differences in education between general and technical audiences, and this is more of a challenge. The first chapter, “Anatomy and Physiology of Game Animals,” provides about as much detail as needed for a lay audience, but is quite rudimentary for a professional audience and can largely be

skipped by wildlife health professionals. Chapter 2, “Diseases of Game Animals,” provides excellent brief descriptions and photographs and illustrations of 12 viral, 18 bacterial, two fungal, fungal protozoal, two trematode, two cestode, and seven nematode European wildlife diseases and 8 noninfectious diseases. This chapter is quite like the University of Georgia Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and the US Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center wildlife disease field guides. The information is of significant professional value, and may be a bit more technical than the average nonscientist can digest.

In my opinion, the image shown in Chapter 3 on page 92, upper right, a red deer intestine and associated lymph nodes with “PTB” (presumed to be paratuberculosis, or Johne’s disease, based on the text around the image), appears to be a corynebacterial-like pseudotuberculosis. Cervids with paratuberculosis do have enlarged intestinal lymph nodes, but they are hypercellular and meaty, not caseated abscesses; the draining lymph channels and surrounding mesentery are enlarged and edematous; and the adjacent intestine is swollen with a thickened and rugose wall (Jessup and Williams 1998). That is not what the picture appears to show, but only the Spanish pathologist who provided the picture can confirm if acid-fast organisms and typical tubercular inflammatory changes dominated the abscessed lymph nodes. Both diseases could be abbreviated PTB as per the legend with that photo, so perhaps an inadvertent mistake was made based on similar abbreviations.

Chapter 3, “Identification of Sick Animals and Disease,” provides information in a combination of lay and professional terminologies that seems to have value to both audiences. Some of the tips provided are the result of field experience and not commonly taught in veterinary or graduate school.

Chapters 4 and 5, “Hunting Hygiene” and “Food Poisoning,” would seem to be more

useful to the general audience unfamiliar with basics, but disease professionals who hunt and want to ensure their game is optimally handled to preserve quality and palatability would profit from them. Also included in Chapter 4 are sections on training hunters, hygiene abroad and dog hygiene, game animal welfare, and game feeding that should be of universal interest and are seldom found in books on wildlife health.

Chapter 6, "Game Animals," is short, covering primarily those species found in Nordic countries, but has beautiful images and interesting information on some cervids introduced into those countries for game management purposes. The Appendix is appropriate and useful.

I really liked this book because it is so attractive and well written and illustrated. I think it has great value for hunters who have more than a casual interest in diseases (more

than just "Can I eat the meat?") and for wildlife health professionals, particularly those who do not have a well-illustrated quick guide to diseases of European game species. The book is a good value for the money, and it might be the perfect gift for a wildlife pathologist to give to a spouse who is an avid hunter.

LITERATURE CITED

Jessup DA, Williams ES. 1998. Paratuberculosis in free-ranging wildlife in North America. In: *Zoo and wildlife medicine*, 4th Ed, Fowler ME, Miller RE, editors. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pp. 616–620.

David A. Jessup, Wildlife Veterinarian, 221 Hidden Valley Road, Royal Oaks, California, 95076 (wda.manager@gmail.com).