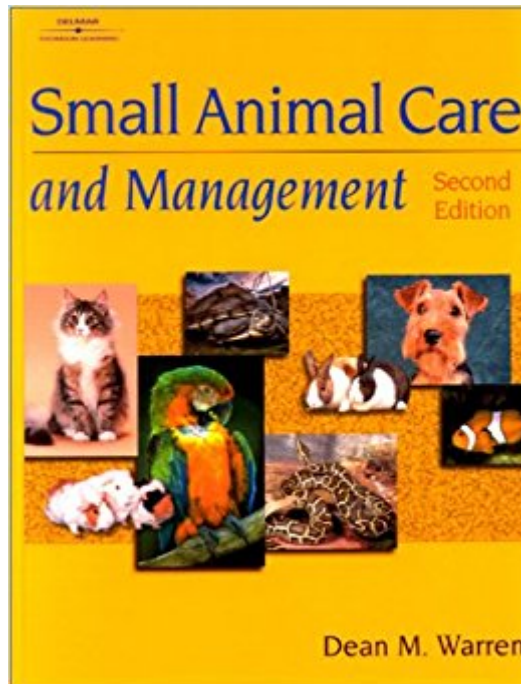




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Small Animal Care & Management



Synopsis

This second edition text explores the care and management of small or companion animals. It includes units on history, characteristics of different species, housing, equipment, handling, reproduction, diseases, and ailments. Key words, discussion questions, and student activities engage students and help them monitor their progress. This second edition includes related Internet sites for further study. Numerous full-color photographs promote visual learning and help students identify different species. A complete course package includes an instructor's guide, and teacher's resource guide with test bank on CD-ROM.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dean M. Warren taught vocational agriculture at Columbia City High School in Columbia City, Indiana, for 30 years. He received numerous awards during his three-decade teaching career, including the IVATA Outstanding Young Member Award for 1994-95, the 1987 Indiana State Agriscience Teacher of the Year award, and the 1991 Outstanding Indiana Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year award. Mr. Warren is a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association and a life member of the National Association of Agriculture Educators, the Indiana IVATA/IAAE, the Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education, and the Purdue University Alumni Association. He has received the Honorary State FFA Degree and the Honorary American FFA Degree. Mr. Warren holds bachelor of science in agriculture and master of science in education degrees from Purdue University.

I must say that, initially, I was quite excited to have finally found a (seemingly) informative text about small animal care in my college book-store. After further reading, however, and in all honesty, I could not have been more disappointed with the so-called 'up-to-date' material that was presented in this book. As an animal health care specialist and Veterinary student at the Ohio State University, I have been studying small animals for most of my life, and it was the section on birds in Dean Warren's publication that was most alarming to me. He suggests first of all that the only toys which can be provided within a large parrot's cage are bells which can safely be strung up, while anything else would surely be destroyed. This is true, although Warren forgets to mention that most birds enjoy destroying things, and they should be provided as many 'destructible' objects as possible (as long as none of the shredded pieces contain harmful parts that might injure the bird internally, and are promptly removed anyhow) to keep the bird stimulated and happy. We come next to the section on bird feeding, wherein a diet of seeds only has been suggested by the author. Even though he seems to imply that the seed diet should 'vary', it has long been established that an all-seed diet is more detrimental to domestic birds than beneficial. Birds should instead be fed a diet that is at least 74-80% pelleted material, which should often be supplemented with fruits, veggies, and perhaps even a bug or two every once in a while. Oily seeds especially need to be avoided, unless they are offered as treats, because of their high fat content. The author also stresses that a supply of grit be offered to domestic birds at all times, to aid them in digesting their food. This, also, could not be further from the truth. Most of us certainly do not feed our dogs raw meat on a regular basis simply because their wild relatives eat it often in the wild. Similarly, domestic birds need be provided with absolutely no grit at all; in most cases they are not the same as wild birds, and grit has been shown to remove several beneficial vitamins from birds' systems (among them Vitamin A). The canary and finch, however, can tolerate a small amount of grit in their diets every few months. Sadly, there was a good deal more misleading information in this book, including the out-dated notion that a cat's paws should be physically dragged across its scratching post to teach her to use it, though this will only teach most cats (who may not enjoy having their paws handled in this way) to avoid the object in question; the ridiculous statement that rats have 'bad qualities and characteristics' after a short discussion on their destructive history, although today's domestic rats are among the friendliest and most intelligent creatures; and the statement in the Animal Rights/Welfare section that there is no proof of a vegetarian diet being healthier than that of those of us who eat meat. I may not be a vegetarian, but just as there has been proof that eating meat is healthy for the human diet, just as many studies have shown that vegetarian and vegan diets might also be just as beneficial. All of this,

coupled with more than a few spelling mistakes and grammatical errors, make this a shoddy piece of work at best. The book does have beautiful photographs, but I would not recommend this title to anyone considering any sort of career in animal health.

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