detection of viral nucleic acid in silver stained polyacrylamide gels. Journal of Clinical Microbiology 16: 473–477

Book review — Boekresensie

Comprehensive reports on technical items presented to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions 1996


This collection of reports includes chapters on the following subjects of veterinary interest: genetic biotechnology; aspects of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in transmission and on diagnostic methods of choice and surveillance; scrapie concentrates on the situation in certain countries in the spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), respectively. The chapter on systems for disseminating information, accurate surveillance and reporting, and the need for adequate veterinary structures for effect of infrastructures on surveillance and monitoring systems assessment and management are addressed. A chapter on the role of carrier animals in the transmission of foot-and-mouth disease indicates that shedding of virus by persistently infected (carrier) animals rarely causes outbreaks, and highlights the need for further research in this field.

In the report entitled ‘Surveillance and control of marine fish diseases’, many of the fish considered are usually classed as freshwater products, e.g. trout and eels. The term ‘fish farming’ is also used by the author in its broadest sense, to include both farming with captive-bred stock and growing-out of wild-cought juveniles (a sort of aquatic feedlot). The author suggests methods based on disease control in mammals to be applied to both surveillance and disease control in fish. Disease control in fish-farming operations is often of concern to aquatic environmentalists, since most treatments result in large quantities of chemical used for medication entering public water sources. It is encouraging to note that Norway has managed to develop vaccines to control the major salmonid diseases, resulting in a drop in sales of antimicrobial drugs for salmonid farming from 50 000 kg in 1987 to less than 5000 kg in 1995. An article of 11 pages can only touch briefly on such a complex subject, where advances in both management technique and veterinary knowledge are rapid, but further details can be obtained from the excellent list of references, of which no less than 60 of the 66 pages date from 1990 onwards. It is, however, surprising that no mention is made of disease in marine aquarium fish.

This collection of reports contains a considerable amount of information that is of value to veterinarians in a number of fields, but most importantly to those involved in import and export of animal products who need to understand the WTO and GATT procedures for complying with the requirements set by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the role of risk analysis in pizooties recommendations and establishment of surveillance and control systems for diseases in the absence of restrictive controls. In these reports date from 1990 onwards. It is, however, surprising that no mention is made of disease in marine aquarium fish.

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