

BOOK REVIEW

FoalinMare: insights inside the foaling mare, 2nd edition

Edited J. Govaere, K. Martens, A. de Kruif

Published by Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium
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Jan Govaere, Katrien Martens and Aart de Kruif, together with their talented collaborators at the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health at Ghent university (in cooperation with Utrecht university, Ohio State University and the University of Nantes), have produced an educational DVD that is intended mainly at students, vets and teachers; however, the DVD may also be suitable for biologists, horse's breeders and own-

ers. They used some of the best 3D animations I have ever seen. By means of this video support, they showed exactly what normally happens and what instead can deviate from physiologic during equine pregnancy and parturition; all in an effective and intuitive way.

The DVD contains 2 film sequences and 45 minutes of 3-D animations. The narrative voices of all movies and animations are translated into French, German, Spanish and Italian, with the text only translation into Dutch, Japanese, Portuguese and Arabic. Movies and animation are well illustrated, clearly narrated and divided into six main sections: a) foetal development; b) stages 1, 2 and 3 of parturition; c) dystocia, and d) miscellaneous conditions. The graphics depicting malpositions are amazingly realistic and accompanied by a clear narrative that is very easy to follow, including illustrations of procedures to handle equine dystocia in practice.

There are only minor lacunae in the information. For example, the movie on caesarean section goes into detail about some surgical techniques (suture, etc.), but does not describe pre- and postsurgical management in any way. Indeed, despite describing how to correct many obstetrical problems, there is no

material illustrating the presenting clinical signs, the diagnostic approaches and the post-operative care of the various clinical scenarios.

There are a few minor translational errors in the dialogue in the Italian version, for example in the dystocia section, the dorsal-transverse presentation has the same narrative text of the ventral-transverse presentation, and in the translation of the term *foetotome* in the Italian term *fetotomo* has the wrong accent pronunciation (Fetotòmo, instead of Fetòtomo). However, these minor errors do not detract from the general validity of the work.

In conclusion, even if this DVD has not been made to take the place of a good textbook, it is, however, a valuable and highly recommended didactic tool for veterinary teachers and students around the world.

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