Those who have experience of veterinary practice know much more about animal behaviour than most of those who have just completed a veterinary course. Authoritative courses on behaviour are taught in few veterinary schools despite the facts that behavioural symptoms are used extensively in disease diagnosis; that a knowledge of behaviour is essential when examining and treating animals; and that members of the public often seek veterinary advice concerning the treatment of behavioural abnormalities. Houpt & Wolski join the growing band of us who advocate that those who study and practise veterinary medicine need to understand the principles of animal behaviour and the practical application of those principles. The book is based on a behaviour course for veterinary students and is also advertised as being appropriate for those concerned with animal production on farms.

The chapters in the book deal with topics such as sexual behaviour, communication, ingestive behaviour, etc. They include varying amounts of general discussion and a summary of information about dogs, cats, horses, pigs, cattle, sheep and goats. This organization is preferable to one in which there is a chapter for each type of animal but when reading the book it is still necessary to plod through the catalogue of animals in each chapter. The veterinary emphasis on the animals which are of most value in veterinary practice is apparent, for there is extensive discussion of dogs and horses but virtually no mention of poultry or other smaller animals. In this book there is practical advice on animal handling and sensible comment on behavioural disorders of pets, which will be of great use to veterinary students. There is also enough good science to put this advice and comment into a reasonable context but the quality of the general discussion of behaviour is rather variable. The practical advice is often very specific; for example it is pointed out that cows may kick at a painful area so injections into the shoulder should be given from the other side of the animal, a procedure which 'generally requires a small cow or long arms'. Veterinary practitioners are encouraged to advise people not to let their children play with large irritable dogs and not to breed from an irritable dog 'since its offspring would approximate the parents' temperaments'.

The accounts of hormones and reproductive behaviour, problems with sexual behaviour, and maternal behaviour, are generally good, both scientifically and practically. There are also useful accounts of behavioural changes during development in Chapter 6 and two appendices. The chapters on the control of food intake and on biological rhythms and sleep are more academic than the others, although the latter starts with the statement that humans respond to alarm clocks, etc., but animal rhythms are a consequence of responses to internal signals. The discussions of learning and social behaviour are rather out of date in their approach. After starting with the statement that 'Learning can be classi-