

Letter to the Editor Regarding a Bool Review on Heartwater a

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

Letter to the Editor Regarding a Book Review on Heartwater^a

The following comments concern the review of the book "Heartwater (Cowdriosis): A Review" recently published in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (Burridge and Mahan, 1997). While I do not normally take exception to negative criticism of something I have published, after some hesitation I felt that I must react. The reason is that the review is not fair.

What is especially unfair and the main reason for taking exception to the review is that the reviewers criticize the fact that papers published in 1995 and 1996 are not included in this review of cowdriosis. In the preface of this volume we clearly state that the book "presents the great majority of references and reports available on heartwater until mid-1994".

I also take exception to the following: (1) According to the reviewers "scant mention is made of the demonstration of the carrier state in heartwater", but this is very clearly discussed

on page 58 of the book; (2) the section on serological methods is stated by the reviewers to be "inadequately critical of the serious problems with ehrlichial cross-reactions", but we devoted a separate section to this on pages 98 to 100; (3) the reviewers note that "Research on development of an inactivated vaccine receives only one paragraph of discussion, whereas recombinant vaccine research, which has been on-going on three continents for several years, receives virtually no mention", but at the time the review was terminated (1994) there was only one publication on protection given by inactivated *C. ruminantium*; as far as research on recombinant vaccines was concerned, it was at a very preliminary stage, and even at present I am not sure whether or not it would be justified to expound much more than we did on page 118; and (4) the reviewers state that the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Zimbabwe is not mentioned in the review, when in fact it is listed on page ix.

LITERATURE CITED

BURRIDGE, M. J., AND S. M. MAHAN. 1997. Heartwater (Cowdriosis): A review. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 33: 173-174.

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^a Editor's Note: This is an unsolicited response from the author to an article or other information published in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. The comments are strictly those of the author and have not been subject to peer review. Any citation of the information or opinion presented herein should be presented only in that context.