

FULLY REVISED & UPDATED

DOG OWNER'S HOME VETERINARY HANDBOOK

FOURTH
EDITION

All New Coverage of:

- Diseases & Aging
- Genetics
- Behavioral Findings
- Cancer Treatments
- Natural & Preventive Treatments



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Dog Owner's Home

VETERINARY

Handbook

4th Edition

Debra M. Eldredge, DVM
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Edited by Beth Adelman



Wiley Publishing, Inc.

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This book is not intended as a substitute for the medical advice of veterinarians. Readers should regularly consult a veterinarian in matters relating to their dog's health, and particularly with respect to any symptoms that may require medical attention.

In writing this book, we have described the signs and symptoms that will lead you to a preliminary idea of what is happening with your dog, so you can weigh the severity of the problem. Knowing when to call your veterinarian is very important. Delays can be dangerous.

At the same time, we have sought to provide guidance for the acute or emergency situations that you must handle on your own until you can get your dog to a veterinarian. Life-saving procedures such as artificial respiration and heart massage, and what to do in the event of poisonings, obstetrical problems, and other emergencies are explained step by step.

But a veterinary handbook is not a substitute for professional care. Advice from a book can never be as helpful or as safe as actual medical advice. No text can replace the interview and the hands-on examination that enables a veterinarian to make a speedy and accurate diagnosis.

However, the knowledge provided in this book will enable you to more effectively cooperate and better understand your interactions with your veterinarian. You'll be more alert to the signs of health problems and better able to describe them. You'll know more about basic care for your dog, and you'll be prepared in an emergency.

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FINDING IT QUICKLY

A special **Index of Signs and Symptoms** is on the inside of the front cover for fast referral. Consult this if your dog exhibits any unexplained behavior. It will help you locate the problem.

The detailed **Contents** outlines the organs and body systems that are the sites of disease. If you can locate the problem anatomically, look here first.

The **General Index** begins on page 607 and gives you a comprehensive guide to the book's medical information. Where a page number is in bold, it indicates more detailed coverage of the subject.

Cross-references note pertinent supplementary information.

A **Glossary** on page 585 defines medical terms used preferentially to best explain the subject or condition. Many of these words are now being used commonly among veterinarians and their clients. Glossary terms will usually be found in italics in the text. (Italics may also be used for emphasis.)

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—*Debra Eldredge, DVM*

TRIBUTE TO A DOG

The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

—*Senator George Vest, 1870*

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