

# **HUMAN SEXUALITY AT ITS BEST**

## **HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY**

by Sylvia Mader, Massachusetts Bay Community College

1980/approx. 300 pages/paper/\$6.95 tent.\*/# 4593

\*prices slightly higher in Canada

This comprehensive text provides your nonscience students with basic understanding of human genetics, human sexual reproduction, and the relationship of sexual reproduction to biology as a whole. Genetics and the structure and function of DNA are described in a simple and straightforward manner. No chemistry is used in this text, so it is understandable to students of any academic level.

Mader's new text covers evolution of sex, human sexuality, and current concerns including venereal diseases, birth control, and population growth. Readability and a well-planned format make this the finest human sexuality and genetics text available.

**wcb**

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friendly bond develops as the reading progresses.

The textbook falls short when the authors enter the vital section on biochemistry. The chapter on carbohydrate metabolism is muddled with material more suitable for a physiology book. Thorough explanations of glycolysis, the Krebs Cycle, and electron transport are sacrificed in the rush to apply the principles to the living body. Fat metabolism is discussed as the lead-in to the Krebs Cycle, a departure from the traditional glucose-Krebs Cycle pairing. Somehow the effect is not the same.

Normally, one of the more difficult concepts for the student to grasp is that of the genetic code and protein synthesis. Unfortunately, these vital topics are treated in the same chapter as the ornithine cycle, transamination, and protein digestion. Talk about muddy waters!

In the chapter entitled "Body Fluids" the author uses two-thirds of the pages for a physiological discussion of hormones and vitamins before finally focusing upon blood, milk, and other fluids. The chapter on "Drugs" is a potpourri of antibiotics, antihistamines, anesthetics, and depressants grouped under the questionable heading of "Chemicals in Disease Treatment."

The pages of the textbook are extremely busy. One should be prepared for tables, structures, exercises, questions, and other diversions liberally interspersed through the reading. The margins are littered with paragraph headings, tidbits of information, definitions, and exercise and figure numbers. Biologists will cringe at the writing of genus names. The end-of-chapter questions are bland, and there are no pictures.

In the hands of a good teacher and interpreter, this book may become a valuable tool as the chemistry is generally complete and knowledgeably written. The book is attractively printed with an extensive appendix that includes an absurd exercise on how to do fractions.

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### **Zoology**

#### **CARE OF UNCOMMON PETS**

by William J. Weber. 1979. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston (383 Madison Avenue, New York 10017). 222 p. \$7.95.

Every elementary teacher and all science teachers will order a copy of Wil-

liam J. Weber's book, *Care of Uncommon Pets*, after they read it. Weber is well-known for his previous book, *Wild Orphan Babies: Caring for Them, Setting Them Free, and Wild Orphan Friends*. He has been a veterinarian for twenty-five years, and his articles and photographs appear regularly in wildlife and nature magazines. Weber's enthusiasm and affectionate concern for animals shine through every page of this instructive and enjoyable book.

This book presents information on handling, housing, feeding, breeding, and diseases of such popular, but less common pets as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rates, gerbils, chickens, ducks, frogs, toads, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards, and budgerigars.

Animals such as monkeys are excluded because Weber believes that selling and purchasing such creatures is immoral; raccoons, foxes, skunks, and other wild creatures are not covered because they do not make good pets.

I highly recommend this book for all teachers and for students in grades four through ten.

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