

Animal Care and the Development of Veterinary Medicine

The archives and rare books held by Manuscripts and Special Collections contain a wealth of material relating to the care of animals over the centuries.

Britain's first Veterinary College was established in London in 1791. This was followed by the creation of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1844, a regulatory body created to protect the profession. Vets who had qualified at the London College, or one of the later colleges, could register as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The published membership lists allowed the public to distinguish between qualified and unqualified vets.

For many years the attention of both qualified and unqualified vets was focused on livestock rather than domestic animals. Animals were at the heart of British farming and agriculture and were a valuable commodity. Given the limited number of veterinary training colleges in Britain in the 19th century many farmers and others would have struggled to gain access to a qualified vet for their animals. Instead people relied on unqualified practitioners, their own remedies, quack medicines and information from 'do-it-yourself' manuals. There were many of these manuals available, offering advice on everything from anatomy to the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

It was not until the passing of the Veterinary Surgeons Act in 1948 that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was given power over the education of vets and the prevention of unqualified practice.

The School of Veterinary Science and Medicine opened at The University of Nottingham in 2006.

The University of Nottingham collects archival material relating to the history of the University its predecessor bodies, including the Midland Agricultural and Dairy College, the history of the East Midlands, and the research interests of the University. Over three million items are stored at Kings Meadow Campus. For more information on any of the items in the display or to arrange a visit to the Reading Room at Kings Meadow Campus please contact us.

Wimpole 6th Sept 1722

One of y^r Lordships best cart horses call'd Serjeant
I read of the staggers, also large white sow at the Grange bit some
days agoe by a pig supposed to be mad, I have had all the other
same drench'd by a man thought famous for cure of a bite by
any Dog or beast that y^e mad.

Spring now almost sure, to get the cows to
the place before the South Houses it y^e also necessary
to have the sawney way from y^e Stable to the Horse pond
taken up and new laid, that being very much gull'd and
low.

I have improv'd as much as possible the
water course, to serve the p^rason not coming into the
ground, to do any work but shall not set any Post or
stile or finish any part till Lordships a p^robation affairs
and fish orders given there and about many other things
the good affair in Nottinghamshire.

I presume to defer till I see y^r Lordships here w^{ch} I hope
will be soon. I have been round the Town and find that
Hants will come in very soon.

John Cossen

Y^r Lordships Harcest y^e all in d.

Letter from John Cossen, Wimpole, to Edward Harley, Lord Harley [later 2nd Earl of Oxford], Dover Street, London; 6 Sep. 1722

Reports the death 'of the staggers' of a carthorse called Serjeant; also reports that a sow at the Grange was bitten by a mad pig, and that he has employed a man reputed to be able to cure bites by mad animals to treat the other pigs.

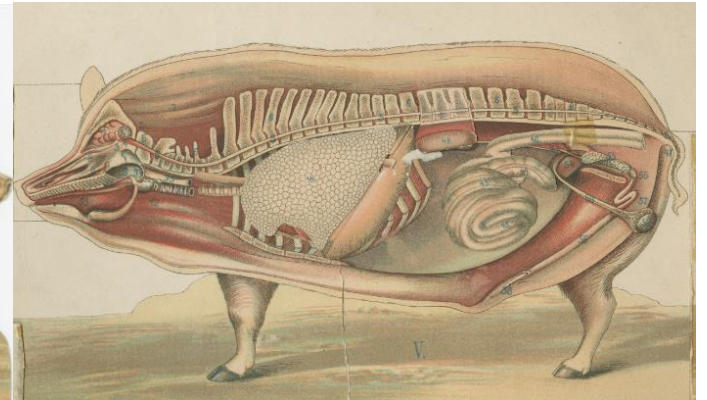
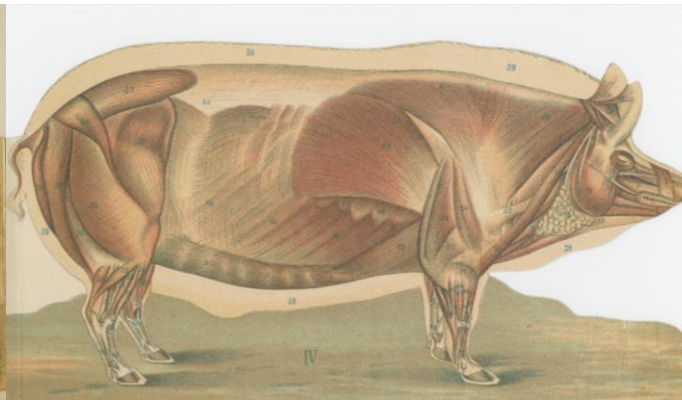
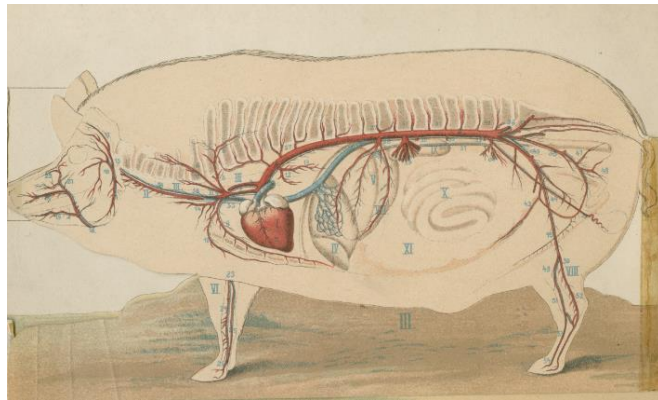
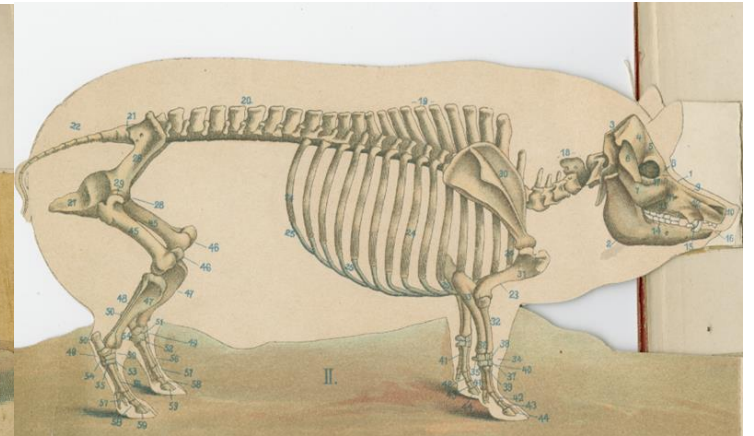
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Nottingham PwF9877

The Right Hon. Lord St. Bentinck
To the Executors of the late

1817
Jan 17 Journey to Barnby & Dissect. for
Treatment P^o (Red Horse) 7.
Surgery & Dressing Feet P^o " 2.
P^o of Ointment P^o " 2.6
P^o of Bandaged " Seat Horses 3.6
18 Journey & Dissect. for treat^o Red Horse 7.
Dressing Feet & Ointment P^o " 1.
20 Journey, dissect. for Treatment " 7.
Dressing Feet & Ointment " 1.
23 Journey, dissect. for treatment " 7.
Dressing Feet & Ointment " 1.
P^o of Ointment for " 2.6
26 Journey, dissect. for Treatment " 7.
Surgery & Dressing Feet " 2.
1821
Dec 20 Journey to Welbeck, dissect. for
Treatment Horses 12.6
1826
Nov 30 Attendance at Euton, dissect. for
treatment to Welbeck (Black Horse) 1.1.
Dec 18 Attendance, dissect. for treat^o " 1.1.
22 Large P^o of Ointment Seat " 5.
£ 7-10-0

Bill for veterinary treatment supplied for horses of Lord Frederick Bentinck; 17 Jan. 1817-22 Dec. 1826
(Ref: Pw F 9877)



Front cover of *The Pig: Its External and Internal Organisation* edited by Sir G.T. Brown and a fold-out diagram showing the skeleton and internal organs; [1900]

(Ref: Special Collection SF767.S95.B7)

Polish.

A very elegant and pretty, though somewhat foppish and conceited-looking bird. It is not of sufficient size to be eligible for market purposes, but for private consumption is excellent, the flesh being white and tender.

They are almost everlasting layers, but the eggs are, certainly, below average size. They rarely sit, and the reputation of good mother, cannot, with fairness, be classed among their virtues.

As a *fancy variety*, the Polish take high rank, and deservedly so, for they thrive under petting, and really require greater care than more robust varieties.

A farm-yard would be the death of them; they like a grass run and aviary accommodation, and their plumage increases in beauty with the increase of comfort.



GOLDEN POLISH.

Edinburgh: Thomas C. Clark.

***The Henwife: Her Own Experience in Her Own Poultry-Yard* by the Hon. Mrs Arbuthnot; 1871**

This book is a typical example of a manual written by an enthusiastic amateur. In it the Honourable Mrs Arbuthnot provides descriptions of different breeds of poultry, gives advice on their general treatment and diet and provides remedies for common diseases.

(Ref: Special Collection SF487.A7)

This Receipt for a Shooting Cow
 Take eight handfull of Mouse Ear
 one handfull Bay, one handfull
 Chicken-weed, Two handfull of
 Blackberry leaves or tops.
 chop them small and boil them
 half an hour in as much Buttermilk
 as will make it of a proper thickness
 then add Three Quarts Lard one handfull
 Salt. Two Ounces Tobacco, slit her tail
 on the under side about 3 Inches &
 put a little salt and Tobacco in
 the wound. Dress it with a Linnen Cloth
 and woad: and give her this once at twice
 two mornings together

A Receipt for a Cows Knee when Swelled
 Take one Table Spoonful Oil of Vitriol & 4 Spoonful
 of Spoor Oil. mix them together & let them stand a while
 then add 5 Spoonful of Brandy. Pot may be rubbed on

A Receipt for curing a Cow when Swelled with Clover
 Take an Egg & cut off the shell at one end & extract the yolk
 then fill the shell with Tar. & put it down the Throat
 then give her a hornfull of Urine Chamberlains & take some
 Blood from her - If stopped, apply the Tar to the side

EVERY MAN
 HIS OWN
CATTLE DOCTOR;
 OR
 A PRACTICAL TREATISE
 ON
 THE DISEASES OF HORNED CATTLE:
 BEING
 A CONCISE AND FAMILIAR DESCRIPTION OF ALL
 THE DISEASES INCIDENT TO
OXEN, COWS, AND SHEEP;
 With the most simple and effectual
METHOD OF CURING EACH DISORDER,
 IN ALL ITS VARIOUS STAGES;
 AND THE MOST
EFFICACIOUS TREATMENT OF COWS,
 BEFORE, AT, AND AFTER THE TIME OF
CALVING,
 AND ALSO OF EWES DURING THE LAMBING SEASON.

The third Edition, corrected and improved.

By FRANCIS CLATER,
 CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, RETFORD,
 AUTHOR OF "EVERY MAN HIS OWN FARRIER,"
 Twenty-one Editions of which have been sold.

LONDON:
 Printed by E. and H. Holes, Cross-Street, Boston-Garden;
 FOR B. & H. CROSBY AND CO. STATIONERS' COURT;
 And sold by Bridges, Nowell, Jackson, Lenth; Henson, Leach, Inchbold and
 Nicholl, Leeds; Shircliffe, and Thomas and Co. Doncaster; Rose and Drakard,
 Stamford; Thornin, Slesant, Babington, Horncastle; Storr, Heselton; Lion and
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 rcester; Mils, Thirford; Baxter, Leam; Bower, Cranbrook; Townson,
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 Lichfield, Sheffield, Halifax, Huddersfield, Chester, Nottingham, Derby, Peter-
 borough, Northampton, Salisbury, Bath, Bristol, Devizes, Exeter, Penzance, Can-
 terbury, Pontefract, Bradford, Newcastle, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock,
 Aberdeen, Berwick, and Dublin.

1812.



Every Man His Own Cattle Doctor; Or A Practical Treatise On The Diseases Of Horned Cattle And Sheep by Francis Clater; 1812

Written by a man calling himself a 'chemist and druggist' of forty years' experience this book promises to give a description of all the diseases suffered by ox, cows and sheep and to provide a remedy for each of them. The owner of the book has added in his own remedies.

(Ref: Special Collection SF753.C6)

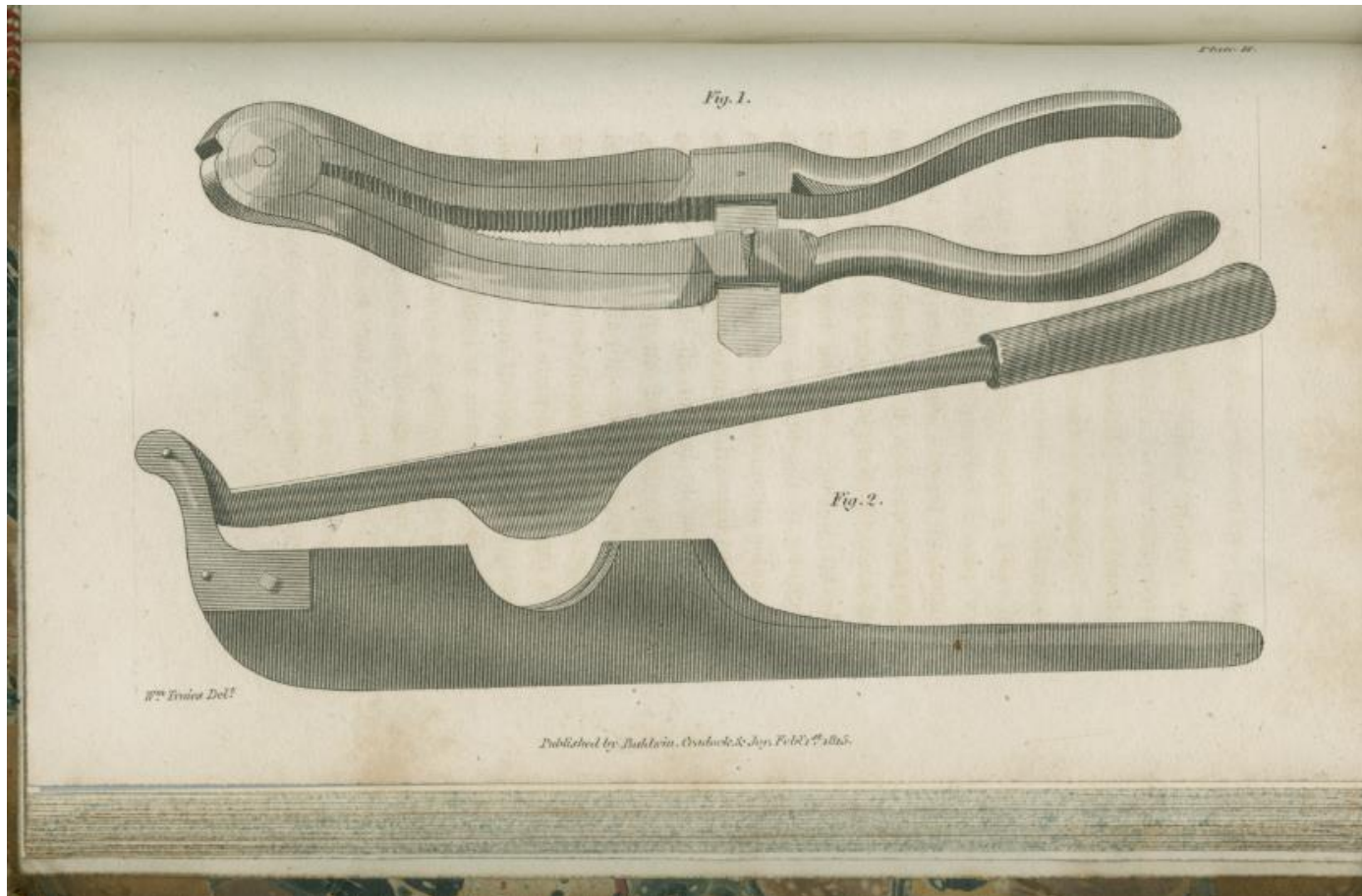


Diagram of a 'clams' instrument used in castrating horses and an instrument used for cutting off a horse's tail. From *A Treatise On Veterinary Medicine, Vol. 4* by James White, Veterinary Surgeon of Exeter; 1818

(Ref: Special Collection SF753.W4)



A selection of photographs of animals belonging to the Midland Agricultural College; c. 1940s

(Ref: UAC 7/2)