

John Pottie MRCVS 1832?-1908

John Pottie was born in Scotland, son of Michael Pottie, veterinary surgeon. He trained at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh and in 1858 was registered as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He arrived in Sydney in 1860 in charge of a consignment of valuable horses sent by the British government. Once there, he decided to stay and seek his fortune, an ambition he realised over the next forty years.

He established a veterinary practice in Sydney in 1861 in an era when the veterinary profession was struggling to seek recognition, when the validity of veterinary science had not yet established itself and contending with the poor levels of training that existed in Britain at that time.

His veterinary expertise was quickly recognised when, with two other commissioners, in 1861 he diagnosed an outbreak of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), recommending immediate isolation and slaughter. In addition to his practice, he was shortly after appointed inspector of cattle and of sheep in Sydney, and consulting veterinary surgeon to the New South Wales government and to the NSW police.

Over the years, he established an extensive business in the sale of veterinary remedies and CBPP vaccines to the pastoral industries. In 1872 he published *The Horse in Health: and Its Diseases; Their Nature, Symptoms, and Treatment* and, in 1886, *Pottie's Guide in Cases of Difficult Foaling and Calving*.

In 1862 he married Eliza Allen from Belfast. In 1881 he was a foundation member of the short-lived Australian Veterinary Medical Association. He died in 1908, survived by three sons and two daughters. His contribution to the veterinary profession in Australia should be recognised because he successfully adapted himself to the revolution in medical sciences that was occurring during his years in practice.

References

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