The book that you are holding is a compendium, containing data, theory, and guidelines for the practice of what has come to be known as Animal Assisted Therapy (abbreviated as AAT). This is defined as a form of therapy that involves using an animal as a fundamental part of a person’s treatment. Although the most common form of animal used is the dog, followed by cats, many kinds of animals have been used in therapy, mostly small animals (rabbits, birds, fish, gerbils), but some large animals have been employed (mostly horses), and some exotic species (e.g., elephants, dolphins, lizards). Prophylactic Antimicrobial Therapy Antimicrobial prophylaxis (AP) can be primary (prevention of an initial infection); secondary (prevention of the recurrence of an infection) or for eradication of colonising organisms. It is often for surgical or nonsurgical indications. Examples of nonsurgical AP include prevention of infective endocarditis in valvular heart disease undergoing dental procedures and prevention of infection by encapsulated organisms in asplenic patients. The aim of antimicrobial therapy is to achieve effective concentration at the target sites while minimising adverse events. In general, management of patients with suspected infection consists of initiation of empirical therapy followed by targeted therapy once microbiological data become available. Certain pages from this book are designed for use in a group setting and...