

Preface



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Guest Editor

The application of clinical pathology to equine practice has expanded greatly over the past decade. This expansion has been boosted by the advent of easy to use and reasonably priced in-house instruments and rapid, often horse-side, diagnostic kits.

It is not possible to do justice to the full gamut of clinical pathology in one issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Equine Practice*. Consequently, this issue focuses on some of the key areas of importance to the practicing equine veterinarian: hematology, basic biochemistry, serum and plasma proteins in inflammation and immunodeficiency, coagulation defects, and urinalysis and related procedures. It also addresses the interpretation of clinical pathology results in foals and in the racing animal, two quite different perspectives. Finally, although there were many procedures and tests that could have been included in this issue, two reasonably contemporary, but disparate, topics have been selected: the analysis of bronchoalveolar lavages and the analysis of synovial fluid. I commend all of the authors on their keen ability to present their material with such a practical, clinical outlook. It has been a pleasure working with them all.

I am also most grateful to Simon Turner and John Vassallo for their invitation to be guest editor for this issue; their understanding and forbearance made the journey possible, in very busy times, while the staff at Elsevier brought the whole project together smoothly and efficiently. Finally, I pay tribute to the late John Wilkinson (The University of Melbourne) and Duane Brobst (Washington State University), both enthusiastic clinical

pathologists who were influential mentors and friends to me in my early career in this field.

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