



Preface

Internal medicine



Stephen J. Hernandez-Divers,
BVetMed, DZooMed, MRCVS



Sonia M. Hernandez-Divers,
DVM

Guest Editors

We are pleased to bring you the first issue of *The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice* dedicated to Internal Medicine. A great deal of work on the part of the authors has been put into this issue and we know you will derive much information from it.

In putting this issue together, we had one principle in mind—to bring you not only the latest diagnostic and treatment options for the most common internal medicine problems afflicting our exotic animal patients, but also the unique anatomy and physiology of our patients that explains why these diseases exist and how they are best managed. Recognizing that most veterinary curriculums make us, at best, good mammalian biologists, most of us have had to teach ourselves avian and reptilian anatomy and physiology to best understand their diseases. Certainly similar information is available to you in physiology journals and compilations (such as *Biology of the Reptilia*), but we aimed to synthesize a review of such literature in the context of how it relates to common syndromes you will see in your practice. We encouraged our authors to pull their information from resources you might not keep on your shelf and put it together in a practical manner. Most of you already know the HOW, we hope this issue brings you the details to fill in the WHY of such problems. For those of you who have been practicing exotic animal medicine for a while and have outgrown all those other resources, this issue is for you.

Simultaneously, we all understand that exotic animal medicine is still at its infancy. The list of topics in the issue is by no means complete, and thereby illustrates the need to continue clinical and scientific research to fill in

such gaps. It is an exciting time for all of us in this field. Those before us have laid the groundwork and now it is up to us to continue this trend and replace anecdotal information with scientifically acquired data.

The authors in this issue represent a group of your colleagues who are out there practicing exotic animal medicine on a daily basis and are considered leaders in their specific area of expertise. We can assure you that they did a thorough job of reviewing the latest literature and made every effort that the information in this issue answers some of your most complex internal medicine problems. They are a creative, resourceful group faced with the same challenges that face you. You should know that though an unfortunate series of unlucky events plagued this group of authors—vehicle accidents, a house burglary, one case of food poisoning, two attacks by deadly computer viruses, a university-wide shut down and a series of other issues—they managed to get their manuscripts in! We thank them for their tireless efforts.

Finally, we would like to thank John Vassallo for his patience and guidance in the production of this issue.

Stephen J. Hernandez-Divers, BVetMed, DZooMed, MRCVS
Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7390

Sonia M. Hernandez-Divers, DVM
Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-7390