

## Preface



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*Guest Editor*

The passion of veterinary medicine is the lifelong commitment to improve our level of knowledge so we can provide a greater service to our patients and their human guardians. This commitment has always been a difficult task for the exotic animal veterinarian. The large number of different species we see and the limited number of resources (especially in toxicology) have made this problematic in the past. The availability of quality exotic animal veterinary resources is much better today; however, there has never been a single toxicology text that addressed most of the exotic animal species seen by the exotic animal veterinarian. In this issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice*, we have filled that void and provided a single go-to reference on toxicology of exotic animals.

The authors were chosen for their professionalism, expertise, and clinical experience. Their articles went beyond my expectations, providing a solid foundation of toxicologic information with many unique and insightful perspectives on their topics. This issue begins with the all important basics of diagnostic sampling and establishing a minimum database, followed by critical care of the toxicology patient. The articles following address the different exotic animals and their toxicologic conditions. There are an endless number of potential toxicants that exotic animals could be exposed to. The authors have compiled the most common and relevant information related to the toxicology for their species.

The exotic animal veterinarian is also faced with the handling and treatment of venomous species in which we, our patients, or their owners may be exposed to these animals' toxins. For that reason, articles on "Toxic

Exotics” and “Toxicologic Information Resources for Reptile Envenomations” have been included.

I would like to thank all of the authors for their commitment and wisdom in putting together this unique source of information for the exotic animal veterinarian. I would also like to thank Elsevier and *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice* for their dedication and support of the exotic animal veterinarian.

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