

Preface



Laura Wade, DVM, DABVP-Avian
Guest Editor

Ever since *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice* began publishing the year after I graduated from veterinary school, I have looked forward to each issue, which I read cover-to-cover and referenced often over the years. Back in 1998, I was already on track to work with exotic species, and I remember being especially pleased that the publishers of *Veterinary Clinics of North America* decided to devote a whole new burgundy series to exotics rather than an occasional article in the robin egg blue small animal series. Since that first issue on critical care, a new edition has been published every 4 months, and there remain topics still not covered. So, 33 issues later, and with 21 inches (53 cm) of shelf space already devoted to my growing burgundy library, I am pleased to finish out the 2009 editorial year by moving from avid reader to guest editor.

Bacterial and parasitic diseases are encountered on a daily basis in exotic animal practice, and there has been a flood of new information in the literature in recent years. It is daunting pairing two diverse topics for a platform such as this, but I think this issue provides an excellent review of important and emerging bacterial and parasitic diseases likely to be encountered when treating special species. As each previous issue before it, this will be a great resource for busy practitioners, veterinary students, and those studying for the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

This issue brings together a diverse group of authors from three continents and includes varied discipline specialists from university, zoological, research, and private practice settings. Unexpectedly, the rodent section was unable to be covered, creating an unfortunate gap in this issue. There is, however, a unique section on bacterial and parasitic zoonoses. Aside from excellent updates on rabbits and reptiles, this issue also reports on five avian families and some groups infrequently covered in many other exotic animal references (primates, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates). Additionally, this issue includes perhaps the most comprehensive review of bacterial and parasitic diseases of ferrets I have encountered to date. Several authors have provided a number of pictures and summary tables that highlight important aspects of the organisms and diseases they cause.

One of the advantages of writing an article or editing other's manuscripts is the opportunity to learn about the subject more thoroughly than merely reading the

finished product. Another advantage of working on a project like this with a group of respected experts in the field is the opportunity to expand the network of colleagues. I had the pleasure of working with Roger Harlin on the columbiform section. Dr. Harlin is from the pigeon capital of the United States (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) and brings a practical perspective from his many years of pigeon practice. I enjoyed providing supplemental material and literature updates for this section.

I thank Agnes Rupley for considering me for my first editing experience. It has been both a pleasure and a challenge working on this issue. Each of the authors and I have busy practices and many other writing, speaking, and life commitments. I thank all of the authors for their expansive donation of time and effort for their article contributions. My extreme thanks goes to editor John Vassallo, for his patience and perseverance with the many delays this issue experienced along the way.

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