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RESUMEN
animales de compañía



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Médico Veterinaria de nacionalidad Suiza graduada en la Universidad de Zurich. Realizó su internado en la Universidad del Estado de Washington en Medicina y Cirugía de Pequeños Animales. Su tesis Doctoral la realizó en Anestesia de la Iguana verde, en el Hospital Veterinario de Long Beach, California. Especialista en Acupuntura y TCM. Actualmente es Directora Médica del Hospital Veterinario en Los Cayos de Florida.

ADDING EXOTIC PETS TO YOUR PRIVATE PRACTICE

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One of the biggest obstacles in non-traditional pet medicine is the lack of concise reference material. Often, if the subject material is in print, it can only be found in obscure or expensive journals, literature which isn't readily available to veterinarians in private clinical practice.

Veterinarians working with exotic species should make an effort to join local special interest groups such as the Rabbit Society, Ferret clubs, Bird and Reptile clubs. Try to attend meetings. This will give you a feel of the current fads and trends amongst your clients as well as give you and your clinic exposure. If you can't attend then subscribe to the organization newsletters.

Knowledge of the «normal» animal will assist the veterinarian determine what is «abnormal.» In addition, if you are going to be hospitalizing exotic patients you must have proper caging and food available for these animals while they are in your facility. Going to the special interest meetings and reading their literature will help you design appropriate caging and provide proper feeding.

Make it a practice to visit your area pet stores that merchandise exotic pets and supplies. This will keep you abreast of all of the new over-the-counter drugs available, the new pet products and information available (and not available) to pet owners. Not only will this keep you apprised what the local «pet store experts» are prescribing but it will give you a chance to help educate these same people. This education benefits all involved and will eventually filter back to you by way of new, appreciative clients. Pet owners educated in areas of the importance of quality medicine are the best type to have.

Governmental laws vary by region regarding the keeping of certain non-domestic pets. For instance, in the United States, while it is legal to keep large constrictors in Florida, it is illegal to keep any snake over six feet long in my city of Marathon. Once you decide to accept treating exotic pets, it would be to your best interest to find out the laws in your practice area.

Since most of the patients that I treat are illegal in my area, I have a stamp that all new clients must sign prior to providing treatment. Although this has never been tested in court, I have had it approved by my hospital attorney, and have shown it to Fish and Game for their acceptance.

I realize that this animal may be an illegal pet in the state of Florida, and that a permit may be required to keep it. In addition, I realize that almost all of the drugs used to treat my pet have never been tested nor approved in exotic animals.

Signature _____
Date _____

The last part of the stamp covers the extra label drug use that we all prescribe when treating exotic pets. Although several drugs have been evaluated in several exotic species, there are been very few drugs that have actually been «approved» for use in exotics, with the majority being in rabbits.

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR THE HOSPITAL LIBRARY

Following are several references listed for the most common exotic species seen in clinical practice. The *identifies books/journals which should be in any clinic that provides health care to non-domestic patients.

(*Internet Access to References in Exotic Animal Medicine

The information superhighway is a currently popular buzzword, but is a useful and easily available resource. Several information services allow networking and instant communication in a wide variety of topics, including veterinary medicine and exotic animal medicine. Subscribers include practitioners, experts, students, and veterinary school faculty. Various forms of communication consist of electronic mail (e-mail), instant messages, bulletin boards, library files, journal abstracts, conferences, forums and roundtables. Continuing education and drug formularies are available. The only hardware necessary for networking is a personal computer, a modem, and a telephone jack (or broadband access) near the computer. Both IBM compatible and Macintosh computers may be used. Computer store dealers should be consulted for advice on brands, styles, and features.

The Veterinary Information Network (VIN) is available on the WEB with basic and comprehensive services offered at different subscription rates. For information go to www.VIN.com. VIN also allows dialogue between subscribers and moderators. VIN includes exotic animal bulletin boards on reptiles, birds, and mammals other than dogs and cats. There is a fee for use when accessing VIN. Fees vary depending on the level and amount of use but start around \$50 US per month.

International Veterinary Information Service, or IVIS, is a FREE service that has a very large, international subscription. There is a tremendous amount of information available on all species. From the IVIS site you can search many different databases and download entire articles and proceedings from conferences. There is a fee for some of these advanced services. Go to www.IVIS.org to register.

Of course there are many, many websites available for all the different species. It is important to be careful when collecting information from the web if you don't know the validity of the source.

GENERAL

Merck Veterinary Manual. 2006; [Merck & Co., Inc.](http://www.merck.com) Whitehouse Station NJ, USA.

There are several excellent chapters on exotics pets.

Manual of Small Animal Practice. Birchard and Sherding. Elsevier. St. Louis, MO. 2006.

There are several chapters on exotic animal pets. This is an excellent reference for the practice on a limited budget that needs a resource to cover all small animal topics.

* The Veterinary Clinics of North America – Exotic Animal Practice. Published 4 times per year by Elsevier. St. Louis, MO.

* Manual of Exotic Pets. Meredith A, Redrobe S. 4th edition. 2001. British Small Animal Veterinary Association. Worthing, West Sussex, 1991.

* Exotic Animal Formulary, 3rd edition. Carpenter, J. Elsevier, St. Louis, MO. 2005.

Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine. 5th edition. Fowler, ME et. Al. (ed). Elsevier, St. Louis, MO 2003.

*Atlas of Diagnostic Radiology of Exotic Pets, Small Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians. Rubel, GA, Isenbugel, E, Wolvekamp, P. W B Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 1993.

Radiology of Rabbits, Rodents and Ferrets. Silverman, S and Tell, L. Elsevier, St. Louis, MO. 2005.

Seminars in Avian and Exotic Pet Medicine. Elsevier. St. Louis, MO. Bi-monthly journal. Emphasizes avian, but covers all species.

* Laboratory Medicine for Exotic Pets. Fudge, A. W. B. Saunders. Philadelphia, PA. 1999.

REPTILES

* Mader DR. Reptile Medicine and Surgery, 2nd ed. Elsevier Inc., St. Louis, MO. 2006. This is a comprehensive book, over 1200 pages with 1500 color images. There are 70 expert authors that contributed chapters to this work.

* Manual of Reptiles. Girling, S and Raiti, P. British Small Animal Veterinary Association. Worthing, West Sussex, 2004.

* Biology, Husbandry and Medicine of the Green Iguana. Jacobson, E. Kreiger Publishing Co, Malabar, FL. 2003.

*Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians. (www.arav.org)

The Association publishes a quarterly bulletin. This is perhaps the best source available for current trends and changes in reptile medicine.

www.kingsnake.com - An excellent on-line resource for care sheets, products and information. This is a Free Website.

RABBITS, RODENTS and FERRETS

*Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents. 2nd edition. Quesenberry, K and Carpenter, J. Elsevier, St. Louis, MO. 2004. Excellent quick reference for the common pocket pets.

*The Biology and Medicine of Rabbits and Rodents. Harkness, JE, Wagner, JE. Lea & Febiger. Philadelphia, PA. 1995. Excellent reference – approaches the pocket pets more from an institutional (heard health) point of view).

Textbook of Rabbit Medicine. Harcourt-Brown, F. Butterworth-Heinemann. 2001

Biology and Diseases of the Ferret. 2nd edition. Fox, JG. Blackwell. 1998.

Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians. www.aemv.org.

AVIAN

* Clinical Avian Medicine. 2 vol. Harrison, G and Lightfoot, T. Spix Publishing. 2005

*Avian Medicine and Surgery. Altman, R. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 1997. Excellent book. Multi-authored text that offers excellent coverage of the subject areas.

A Color Atlas of Avian Anatomy. McLelland, J. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 1991.

*Avian Hematology and Cytology. Campbell, TW. Iowa State University Press. Ames, IO. 1988.

Atlas of Avian Radiographic Anatomy. Smith, SA, Smith BJ. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

*Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery. www.aav.org