



## FOREWORD

The publication of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Merck Veterinary Manual* is a cause for both celebration and reflection. Celebration is in order because this newest edition is being published on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first edition, which made its debut in 1955. The foreword in that first edition concisely stated the aim of the text: “*The Merck Veterinary Manual* is intended to provide the veterinarian with concise, authoritative, and readily available information on diagnosis and treatment of the diseases of animals kept by man for use or pleasure.” This goal still resonates today; it remains the aim of the editors and editorial board to continue to provide clinically useful and up-to-date information as a service to the veterinary profession and its allied disciplines.

This new edition reflects both the remarkable advances in veterinary science and the emergence of new pathogens and new diseases since the publication of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Manual*. Every chapter has been carefully reviewed and either revised or rewritten as needed. In addition, more than 30 new chapters or subchapters were added to address emerging diseases (eg, West Nile encephalomyelitis, chronic wasting disease, Lechiguana, Nipah virus infection, and postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome, to name a few), and to better cover advances in diagnosis and treatment (eg, imaging techniques, pain management, ophthalmic emergencies). Expanded coverage of specialty fields such as cardiology, neurology, ophthalmology, toxicology, and emergency medicine has been undertaken, as well as reorganization and expansion of the section on exotic and laboratory animals to reflect the increasing popularity of exotic pets—and to highlight their potential to transmit zoonotic diseases. The pharmacology section has been strengthened with the addition of chapters on chemical residues and veterinary dosage forms and delivery systems. The table of zoonoses continues to grow; we have added information on clinical manifestations in humans, as veterinarians continue to be at the forefront of control of zoonotic diseases and protection of public health.

To use the *Manual* most effectively, readers are encouraged to become familiar with the Guide for Readers and to use the Table of Contents for each thumb-tabbed section. The extensive Index may be the best first step to locate information on a specific topic. To maintain the handbook style that has been the hallmark of this book, the editors have required concise space limitations of our contributors, and references are not included.

It would be impossible to assemble a book such as this without the efforts of the 470 authors and reviewers who contributed to this edition of the *Manual*. Many are new to this edition and represent contributions from around the globe. Contributors to this edition are from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, in addition to the United States. Such international collaboration seems appropriate as advances in laboratory and clinical research increasingly come from centers of veterinary excellence throughout the world. The *Manual* is distributed and used worldwide; the previous edition was translated into six languages in addition to English.

Thanks are also due to the many people who have worked tirelessly for the past five years to make this edition—the second to be published in an educational partnership between Merck and Merial—possible. The editorial board reviewed every chapter and provided invaluable suggestions and assistance that shaped the structure of the book. A debt of gratitude is due Susan Aiello, editor of the previous edition, for her guidance and devotion to this endeavor. Management support from Mark Soll and Kevin Schultz at Merial have ensured that this edition could be produced in a timely fashion. Pamela

Barnes-Paul and Gary Zelko of the Merck Publishing Group continue their seamless work in producing, marketing, and distributing this book, and facilitating foreign translations. Last, but certainly not least, my publication team deserves special thanks for their assistance: Odilia Achu, who coordinated virtually every phase of the *Manual's* development; Linda St. Clair who spent countless dedicated hours in manuscript processing, typing, and coding; and particularly the associate editor of the *Manual*, Scott Line, who edited, revised, and polished every chapter to make it more readable and, hopefully, more useful.

Finally, many of the changes in this and previous editions have come at the suggestion of our readers. We look forward to continued feedback from the users of this edition of the *Manual*.

*Cynthia M. Kahn*  
Editor