

FOREWORD

Merck & Co., Inc., has a long history of providing medical information to both human and animal health care professionals. For more than 60 years, the *Merck Veterinary Manual* (MVM) has provided veterinarians and other animal health professionals with concise and authoritative information on diseases and management of food-producing, companion, laboratory, and exotic animals. The 11th edition carries on this proud tradition.

This new edition has been completely updated and revised to continue to address the many diverse aspects of veterinary medicine. The first half of the book covers all body systems, including discussions of disease etiology, diagnosis, treatment, control, and prevention. The second half addresses special topics, including behavior, clinical pathology, management and nutrition, pharmacology, toxicology, and poultry medicine. Although the contents of the book have expanded with each edition, the MVM remains true to its original objective: a concise, easy-to-use, comprehensive reference that covers the diversity of species and animal diseases worldwide. Coverage is straightforward and practical, with explicit recommendations given for treatment whenever possible. The succinct discussions also serve to give readers a strong foundation for seeking out and understanding more detailed information available elsewhere.

The MVM covers all the basics, but it is also often relied on for areas not commonly encountered in the daily routine of most animal health professionals. This is no more evident than in the growing responsibility of veterinarians to society, in which general practitioners and specialists alike must vigilantly embrace their role in the international movement of animals, maintaining a safe food supply, and minimizing the spread of infectious animal disease and zoonotic agents. In this vein, a new section is dedicated to public health, covering public health functions and agencies, epidemiologic principles, disease outbreak investigations, food safety, and an extensive table of zoonoses.

Other significant new information has been added on heart disease, diagnostic imaging, emergency medicine, wound management, and pharmacology, including drug resistance. The emerging area of aquaculture is reflected in new chapters on aquaculture, aquatic systems, and aquarium fish. Veterinary responsibilities under the new Veterinary Feed Directive rule are also summarized. Additional timely new topics have been added throughout, covering subjects as diverse as backyard poultry, equine arboviral encephalomyelitis, neonatal management, smoke inhalation, rhodococcosis, scorpion bites, spider flies, xylitol toxicity, toxicologic hazards in the workplace, and the human-animal bond and service animals. And as medical knowledge of exotic and laboratory animals continues to increase, so does the MVM's coverage of pet birds, rabbits, reptiles, rodents, fish, and other nontraditional species.

The contents of the MVM are available online and as an app for handheld devices, providing enhanced capability to quickly access needed information. Digital versions are updated more frequently and include thousands of additional images and other multimedia offerings.

As always, we are deeply grateful to the authors and reviewers who have contributed to the current and past editions of the MVM. The 11th edition of the MVM is an extensive collaboration of the MVM Editorial Board and nearly 400 veterinary experts from academia, government, research organizations, and specialty practices, representing more than 20 countries worldwide. It is only through their dedication to animal health and their efforts and willingness to share their time and expertise that the MVM is possible.

Acknowledgment and thanks are also due to the following individuals for their assistance in the 11th edition of the MVM: Jennifer A. Doyle for business operations and technical troubleshooting, Lisa P. Glinski for index entry coding and other critical tasks, Jean L. Perry for general project administrative support, and Michelle A. Steigerwald for image processing. Appreciation is also expressed to Robert S. Porter, MD, for his management support.

Lastly, there is nothing more rewarding than hearing directly from our readers. Please continue to share your many thoughts, experiences, and stories about the MVM so that the book and its legacy can continue to improve, evolve, and endure.

Susan E. Aiello, DVM, ELS, Editor-in-Chief

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