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Current Therapy in Avian Medicine and Surgery

Brian L. Speer (editor)

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881 pages.

This text is masterly edited by Brian L. Speer, DVM, Dip. ABVP (Avian), Dip. ECZM (Avian), with more than 87 contributors from around the world, divided in 4 sections with a total of 25 chapters, more than 800 full color images, 3 appendices, and over 900 pages. The foreword, from Dr. James M. Harris, gives a brief but meaningful personal historical perspective of the progression of the field of avian medicine and surgery since Robert Stroud's book was first published. The forward also reveals to this reviewer, but probably well known by many, an early mentorship link with the editor of this book.

The preface, by the editor, explains the reasons that led to the decision to undertake the monumental task of editing this book. The primary reasons include the need for an updated avian medicine and surgery reference textbook written in a format that allows incorporation of cutting-edge material in both the current and future editions.

Eighteen chapters incorporate the first section, advances in avian medicine. Chapter 1 is an overview of avian medicine that starts with its history. A nice touch was the citation of non-English ancient literature including "Libro de la caza de las aves" by Chancellor of Castile López de Ayala and "Baz-Nama-Yi Nasiri: Persian Treatise on Falconry". As well as the falconry links to avian medicine, the author reviews historical landmarks of other avian species including poultry medicine crediting the first edition of *Diseases of Poultry*, and pet bird care referring to Robert Stroud's contributions with the texts *Diseases of Canaries* and *Digest on the Diseases of Birds*. Chapter 1 also discusses four different opportunities for specialization in avian medicine and surgery: becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Avian Practice), a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM), a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine (Avian) or either a Member or Fellow (two separate levels) of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS). The author does an excellent job describing the goals of these organizations, the application, examination, and re-credentialing processes required which will aid any veterinarian considering pursuing specialization in this area of veterinary medicine. The last part of Chapter 1 addresses the identification of evidence, how to obtain and assess the information obtained, and phylogenetic and environmental considerations for extrapolation when data is not available for a particular avian species. The author emphasizes how evidence-based practitioners should seek to identify, interpret, and apply the best and most relevant available evidence, while recognizing the limitations of said evidence.

Chapter 2 covers generalities of infectious diseases, and some of the most important infectious diseases like proventricular dilation disease (PDD), psittacid herpesvirus and associated diseases, psittacine beak and feather disease, avian influenza, aspergillosis, coccidial diseases in birds, macrohabdosis, avian chlamydiosis,

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