

Skin Diseases of Exotic Pets

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Skin Diseases of Exotic Pets. By Sue Paterson, Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK. 2006. 333 pp. ISBN 978-0632059690. US \$74.99 (hardback).

Review by Murray E. Fowler

This book is a handbook covering the common skin diseases of nondomestic pet animals. Five authors from the United Kingdom have contributed their experience and expertise to document and illustrate specific conditions that are found in the UK, Europe, and North America. The book is divided into sections on birds, reptiles, fish, and mammals, each following the same general format. First there is a short concise discussion of the anatomy and physiology of the skin, followed by the examination process and diagnostic tests used. The diseases are discussed on the basis of cause and pathogenesis, clinical signs, plus diagnosis and therapy. References are provided for a more in-depth discussion on each topic.

The book is written for the practitioner who deals with nondomestic pet species and for veterinary students. It is the first monograph on skin diseases of nondomestic pets, to the reviewer's knowledge, except for information in detailed books on individual animal groups. Section One of this book deals with birds. One chapter discusses caged birds; others are devoted to raptors and waterfowl. Section Two deals with pet reptiles. Crocodilians are

excluded as they are not generally kept as pets. The discussion on ecdysis (shedding) is concise and well written. The discussion of diseases follows the general pattern used throughout the book based on etiology (bacterial, fungal, viral, parasitic, nutritional, metabolic, and neoplasia).

Section Three is about the dermatology of ornamental fish. Fish are now being cared for by veterinarians and this section will aid practitioners in serving the needs of pet fish owners. As in the other sections, the text of this section is enhanced by illustrations in color. Tables are used effectively throughout.

Section Four deals with mammals, with individual chapters devoted to chinchillas, gerbils, hamsters, hedgehogs, mice, rats, and rabbits.

A real plus is that this book is easy to read. The table of contents quickly directs the reader to species of interest. The index is adequate, listing both diseases and species. Although the book is written for persons having a veterinary medical background, the terminology used by the authors is basic, and should be understood by owners with a vital concern for their pets.

The book is recommended as a quick, concise handbook on dermatologic conditions in nondomestic pet animals.

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