BOOK REVIEWS


This book is the substantially expanded second edition of a comprehensive reference on South American camelid medicine (158 additional pages in the second edition). Although the focus is on llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicunas, important comparative information on Old World camelids is included. The book consists of 25 chapters, including two new chapters (“Conformation and Gaits,” “Disaster and Emergency Management”) that provide broad information on husbandry and medicine. The system-based format allows easy access to references on practical medical and management issues.

The first three chapters contain basic information that any individual interested in these species would find valuable. The novice llamoid practitioner will find the expanded sections of “General Biology,” “Handling and Restraint,” and “Clinical Diagnosis” especially helpful. The chapter “Clinical Diagnosis: Exam and Procedures” is a comprehensive description of commonly performed diagnostic techniques. Although there are numerous diagrams and photographs of landmarks on cadavers for venipuncture and biopsy sites, it would have been beneficial to have included more visual references of the procedures performed on a live specimen.

The chapter “Feeding and Nutrition” is probably the most significantly changed section because of the explosion in knowledge in the field since the last edition. The information on “natural” diets and the discussion of North American feeding practices is complemented with valuable reference tables on forages and other diet analyses.

Additional chapters on general subjects include anesthesia, surgery, infectious diseases, and parasites. References to anesthetic and surgical techniques are critical for practitioners dealing with novel species. Overall, the tables and descriptions of various techniques and drugs are useful and have been significantly expanded from the first edition. The anesthesia chapter includes an excellent description of various intubation techniques. Unfortunately, there are gaps in important information such as route of administration for many of the drugs listed in the reference tables and dosages of reversal agents. In addition, some information is outdated or misprinted (e.g., concentration of detomidine and availability of atipamazole). The surgery chapter contains complete descriptions of surgical problems and postoperative care. Common congenital/hereditary anomalies are well covered. An important addition to the second edition is the information on regulated diseases and an extensive section on preventative medicine.

The remainder of the text is divided into chapters by system. Common problems are described in detail along with practical information on diagnosis and treatment. Useful tables and diagrams allow the veterinarian quick access to normal reference values. New syndromes have been included, and information on previously described diseases has been expanded to reflect current knowledge. The chapter on reproduction deserves special mention. It is coauthored by a leading expert in llama reproduction, Dr. P. Walter Bravo. New reference tables, charts, and photographs of normal male and female gonadal measurements, semen characteristics, hormonal cycles, and pregnancy determination are valuable references. The neonatology chapter contains new information on immunoglobulins, colostrum, and failure of passive transfer (FPT) but fails to provide specific criteria for detection of FPT. Orphan care is expanded and includes information on milk replacement. Chapters on “Congenital/Hereditary Conditions,” “Toxicology,” and “Conformation and Gaits” are complemented by numerous photographs and diagrams.

All in all, this book is a comprehensive, practical text that should be considered a “must” in the library of any veterinarian that works with South American camelids. Enthusiasts will also find the chapters on husbandry topics to be a valuable source of basic information. Substantial changes have been made in the field since the first edition; this new information warrants an upgrade to the second edition.—Reviewed by Michele Miller, D.V.M., Ph.D., Department of Veterinary Services, Disney’s Animal Kingdom, P.O. Box 10,000, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830, USA.


The Color Atlas of Camelid Hematology contains 88 color micrographs, 17 black-and-white illustrations, and 11 tables that provide useful visual references to camelid hematology. The first 25 pages consist of seven brief chapters, including an introduction, tables of reference values, brief descriptions of the development and morphology of the various hematopoetic cell lines, blood parasites, index, and references. The atlas comprises the remaining 26 pages. A unique feature of this text is that it is written in both English and Arabic. The text sections are separated according to standard presentation (English text read from left side; Arabic read from right side).

The introduction provides an informative overview of evolutionary history, species range, and unique characteristics of the various camelid species. The chapter “Reference Values of Camelid Hematology and Biochemistry” is a set of tables with ranges broken down by age groups. Dromedary and Bactrian camels have separate tables, but New World camelids are grouped in the same table. With the current state of data available for llamas, a separate