

Diseases of Ostriches and Other Ratites

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BOOK REVIEW. . .

Diseases of Ostriches and Other Ratites. By F. W. Huchzermeyer. Agricultural Research Council, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, 0110 Onderstepoort, Republic of South Africa. 1998. ISBN 1-86849-101-X. US\$55.00.

There are times when one wishes to have access to specific information of animal species not native to ones shores. As far as Veterinary Medicine is concerned that need truthfully applies to ratites. The new book on Diseases of Ostriches and Other Ratites authored by FW Huchzermeyer represents a welcome contribution and knowledge enrichment to the management, farming and disease aspects of this animal category. It fills a much needed void with a plethora of valuable and updated information.

The book is organized in three broad areas: Biology, Farming, and Diseases of Ostriches and other Ratites. It is both industry and veterinary oriented. It strives to cover everything one wishes to know about ratites in general and ostriches in particular. It is well structured into aspects of marketing, farming, anatomy, physiology, clinical pathology, clinical examination, postmortem examination, therapy and animal behavior. The disease part addresses infectious and non-infectious causes. The book concludes

with a listing of over 500 pertinent publications addressing ratites.

The concentrated text of the book is supported by black and white illustrations, color plates and 40 tables with extremely valuable detailed information of physiologic and metabolic data. The tables overcome the need for searching the literature for specific normal or abnormal parameters unique to ratites. In general, the illustrations are of good quality, even the simplified schematic drawings of specific anatomic aspects of ratites.

In summary, the book strives to cover a large spectrum of information on ratite diseases. It is the professional testimony of an expert in the field and reflects a rich experience and knowledge base accumulated over many years of work with ostriches in The Republic of South Africa. It is well suited for practitioners and should be on the shelf of any veterinarian and farmer dealing with ostriches and ostrich disease problems.

The book is sold by the Librarian, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, 0110 Onderstepoort, South Africa. Price: US\$55.00,—including shipping. E-mail: alma@moon.ovl.ac.za.

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