
Preface

It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds

—Aesop

The first document of parrot as a pet was found in *Rig Veda*, an ancient Indian literature written more than 3000 years ago. Evidence of bird keeping is observed in ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, China and Egypt. Bird keeping is an age-old practice although the science behind the diseases of the birds and their management or care is little neglected. Advancement of knowledge helps in better understanding of the subject. Amalgamation of the advancements along with the conventional knowhow in the area of pet bird diseases within the same cover was one of our best intentions. We have integrated history, etiology and classification of the pathogens along with their host preference, pathogenesis, clinical symptoms, lesion, diagnosis and treatment protocol. The book also encompasses breeds of the birds, nutritional requirements, non-infectious diseases with treatment options, toxicity and remedies, diagnostic techniques, drugs used in pet birds and their interactions, side effects and contraindications. We hope it will help the avian practitioners, students, teachers and scientists working in this fascinating area with updated information.

Moreover knowledge regarding the zoonotic infections transmissible from the pet birds is a necessity in current era after emergence and re-emergence of avian influenza, cryptococcal meningitis, chlamydiosis, *Mycobacterium genavense*, *Giardia duodenalis*, *Cryptosporidium parvum* and other zoonotic diseases. People, handling, rearing and trading the birds should have sufficient knowledge regarding dissemination potentiality of the bird borne pathogens. We have incorporated the zoonotic potentiality of each pathogen causing pet bird diseases along with prevention guidelines that can be followed by the owners.

We acknowledge the scientists and avian practitioners throughout the world for evaluation of book chapters and contribution of valuable photographs specially

Prof. Elena Circella and Dr. Petra Maria Burgmann. We offer sincere thanks to Prof. Maria Foti for her foreword. We also acknowledge friends and senior colleagues of our university/institute for their constructive suggestions. Any further suggestion for the improvement of the book will be heartily accepted.

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