

NEW REVIEW -- LEWBART / Invertebrate Medicine. Blackwell Publishing, 2006, \$129.99.

[AUTHOR]

Lewbart, Gregory A., MS, VMD, Dipl ACZM

[BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA]

ISBN: 978-0-8138-1844-3, 327 pages, hard cover.

[DOODY'S NOTES]

[REVIEWER'S EXPERT OPINION]

Julia K. Whittington, DVM(University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine)

**\*\*Description\*\***

The author's passion for invertebrate medicine is apparent in the compilation of this excellent resource for veterinary care providers of invertebrate animals.

**\*\*Purpose\*\***

The proposed purpose is to serve as a reference on invertebrate animals including their biological data, clinical conditions, and medical treatment. The editor admits that readers looking for a zoology text will find this book lacking in comprehensive anatomy, physiology, natural history, and taxonomy of the extensive invertebrate taxa. This being said, the authors have done an excellent job providing a review of the basic science of these species as it pertains to their captive care, conditions, and treatment.

**\*\*Audience\*\***

The intended audiences are veterinarians and captive care providers of invertebrate animals. While this book is a must for the libraries of these individuals, it is also an excellent teaching tool for the didactic setting and field work. The authors are the most knowledgeable individuals in the field of invertebrate medicine today and the detailed information they provide will be valuable in multiple settings.

**\*\*Features\*\***

The book begins with a brief introduction to the sheer diversity of the invertebrate taxa. This chapter is short, only four pages, but gives readers an understanding of the book's organization, philosophy, and limitations. Each of the subsequent chapters details the basic natural history and taxonomy, anatomy and physiology, natural history and husbandry, and disease conditions of specific metazoan taxonomic groups that are economically important according to the editor. Specific information regarding physical exam, restraint, diagnostic testing, and treatment of invertebrate animals is included in many of the chapters. The book is rich with black-and-white pictures and drawings which are

reproduced in good detail. Twelve pages of color plates are a wonderful addition, and the only shortcoming may be that there are too few of these.

**\*\*Assessment\*\***

The world of zoological medicine has been waiting for this book and it is a valuable addition for any care provider working with invertebrate species. The book is well written, well organized, and offers the right amount of basic science information to enhance the medical knowledge it imparts. This will be an excellent resource in clinics, zoos, classrooms, and laboratories.

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Weighted Numerical Score: 100 - 5 Stars!