

GUIDE FOR READERS

- The Contents shows the title of each section of the *Merck Veterinary Manual* (MVM) and the corresponding thumb tab abbreviation.
- Each section has its own Table of Contents that lists chapter and subchapter titles in that section.
- Many cross-reference page numbers are found throughout the text to enable the reader to quickly find discussions of related material elsewhere in the book.
- A number of abbreviations and symbols used routinely throughout the text are listed beginning on p xiii. Other abbreviations used in the text are defined at their first use.
- Generic (nonproprietary) names of drugs are used in most instances.
- Running heads on left-hand pages correspond to the chapter title of the text appearing at the top of that page. Running heads on right-hand pages correspond to the chapter title of the text appearing at the bottom of that page. In other words, running heads are used as in a standard dictionary.
- The Index is the best way to locate specific discussions of a disease, condition, or syndrome for which the name is known.
- The first half of the MVM is arranged into anatomic systems, and specific conditions are located in the system that is primarily affected. Conditions that may affect more than one system are covered in the section Generalized Conditions (GEN). The second half of the MVM covers special topics or disciplines.
- The authors, reviewers, editors, and publisher have made extensive efforts to ensure that treatments, drugs, dosage regimens, and withdrawal times are accurate and conform to the standards accepted at the time of publication. **However, constant changes in information resulting from continuing research and clinical experience, reasonable differences in opinions among authorities, unique aspects of individual clinical situations, and the possibility of human error in preparing such an extensive text require that the reader exercise individual judgment when making a clinical decision and, if necessary, consult and compare information from other sources.** In particular, the reader is advised to check the product information currently provided by the manufacturer of each drug before prescribing or administering it, especially if the drug is unfamiliar or is used infrequently. Many of the drug dosages given are considered extra-label usages, which require a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Veterinarians should also be familiar and comply with the regulations set forth by the Veterinary Feed Directive.