

## **Manual of Skin Diseases of the Dog and Cat. 2nd ed**

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**Paterson, Sue.** 2008. *MANUAL OF SKIN DISEASES OF THE DOG AND CAT*. 2nd ed. Blackwell Publishing/John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, 356 pp. ISBN 978-1-4051-6753-6, price (paper), \$99.99.

Not every mammalogist will search for this reference on their library shelf, yet Paterson's *Manual of Skin Diseases of the Dog and Cat* may be a valuable resource for the mammalogist with research interests in wildlife diseases, disease ecology, or areas of applied research that continue to place demands on professional biologists working for government and nongovernment organizations with a broad mandate for monitoring the health of wildlife resources. Paterson's 2nd edition provides a practical addition to an organization's library, especially if their charge is focused on wildlife health. And, for the specialist in canine or feline biology, the content may be invaluable as an adjunct to species-specific information. Paterson's 2nd edition stems from the author's combining and updating 2 earlier editions of her *Skin Diseases of the Dog* (Paterson 1998), which remains a valued reference in my personal library, and *Skin Diseases of the Cat* (Paterson 2000) into a single volume. Whereas veterinary clinical practitioners remain the primary readership for the 2nd edition, wildlife veterinarians, environmental toxicologists, and wildlife biologists may share similar reference needs when it comes to evaluating wildlife health in the field or in animals held in captivity for short-term or long-term care. Whether used by the veterinarian in a small practice or a wildlife biologist working with wild canids or felids, Paterson's 2nd edition provides a quick, easy, and readily accessible reference. This reference book is written for workers familiar with health evaluations in clinical or field settings and is not intended for inexperienced users. Paterson's 2nd edition is not intended as a text, although it could serve as a supplemental reference for advanced wildlife toxicology and pathology, and wildlife health courses. The format and writing style is typical of references intended for providing rapid assessments of animal health, in this case, observations of skin conditions indicative of primary or secondary disease processes. Whereas the 2nd edition's cost is competitive with current educational textbooks, for a medical reference, the paperback edition is relatively inexpensive compared to other, more comprehensive references (e.g., Gross et al. 2005). My copy of Paterson's *Skin Diseases of the Dog* (1998) is well traveled, and Paterson's 2nd edition is equally suited to the library shelf or being

tossed in the cab of your pickup, so you can have a photographic reference when working in the field. If a field biologist is working with wildlife health monitoring programs focused on canids, Paterson's 2nd edition or other references such as Helton-Rhodes (2002) may contribute to improved field documentation and diagnosis of disease conditions associated with alterations in skin and pelage.

The 2nd edition is conventional in organization for a quick-access reference. With the incorporation of both dogs and cats in a single volume, a comparative approach can be more easily appreciated by the user. The first 2 chapters of the 2nd edition provide a brief overview of the structure and function of skin in dogs and cats, a cursory discussion that clearly underscores the need for prior training and experience in the reader. For the field mammalogist and wildlife biologist, the 2nd and 3rd chapters serve to introduce or to remind the user of "must do" observations or sample collections to include in the routine practice of characterizing an animal's health as evidenced by condition of the skin and pelage of wild mammals observed in the field or as captives in a clinical setting. Whereas these initial chapters are not intended to be comprehensive and would not be adequate to lead the uninitiated through the field and laboratory processes required in, for example, the diagnosis of skin diseases, the overview chapters do reinforce the requirements of good field and laboratory practice to those experienced with, yet potentially forgetful of, necessary steps in the characterization of an animal's health.

Following these opening chapters, Paterson then provides quick-access accounts of various causal factors (biological, chemical, or physical) linked to skin diseases. Again, the emphasis lies in skin diseases of domestic dogs and cats, yet the comparative approach practiced in the 2nd edition may be clearly extended to other wild mammals, and additional species-specific accounts can be sought in the open, more diffusely available wildlife literature. Biological agents mediating skin disease are briefly considered through chapters focused on bacterial, fungal, and viral and rickettsial disease agents. Other chapters present comparable quick-access accounts for protozoal and parasitic disease agents. Skin maladies presented by animals secondary to disruption of normal metabolic and endocrine function also are captured following the synoptic, rapid-presentation clinical summaries that are consistent throughout the 2nd edition. Special chapters are included that focus on a wide range of commonly encountered skin diseases including those of the external ear, alopecia, allergic and immune-mediated diseases, pigmentation abnormalities, and congenital and hereditary skin diseases. The roles of skin and pelage as indicators of other disruptions in physiological and behavioral states also are considered in chapters focused on nutritional deficiencies or excesses, or associated with aberrant behaviors. Chapters focused on skin diseases linked to stressors commonly encountered in the environment (e.g., temperature-induced maladies) and generalized responses (e.g., defects in keratinization) to exposure to causative

agents of skin disease round out the 2nd edition along with brief chapters on neoplastic and other diseases. Key strengths in this 2nd edition are the color photographs of common and rare skin conditions.

As a handy quick-access reference for daily use, Paterson's 2nd edition would be a solid addition to the library of a veterinary practice or wildlife health facility. It also would serve as a reference to complement introductory texts such as those of Wobeser (2005, 2007) designed for academic or continuing education courses in wildlife health. Traditional hard-copy references such as Paterson's 2nd edition also would be complemented by online sources such as those available through wildlife health organizations (see, e.g., <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/>, accessed 21 April 2009).—GREGORY LINDER, *United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Discipline, Columbia Environ-*

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