CONCLUSION

This article provides an atlas of normal radiographic anatomy of the thoraco-abdominal cavity of the ostrich, which should facilitate radiographic interpretation of pathological processes. The study provides additional anatomic information visualised in the ostrich that cannot be obtained from cadaver dissections. Adapting this study to other ratites should be possible, but one should be aware that a number of anatomical variations exist.

Additional diagnostic imaging techniques such as contrast studies of the gastrointestinal tract and urogenital system and ultrasound are currently being developed by the authors in order to provide a better understanding of the thoraco-abdominal cavity of the ostrich.

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Book review — Boekresensie

International aquatic animal health code

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It is well known that aquaculture is a rapidly expanding industry, but it is not always recognised that aquaculture is also a rapidly diversifying industry. Whereas traditional agriculture relies primarily on a limited number of domesticated species, none of the species used for aquaculture are fully domesticated and most are entirely undomesticated. In addition, new species are continuously being found suitable for culture in intensive production systems. The list of significant diseases of aquatic animals is growing as rapidly as the aquaculture industry itself. Internationally, the effects of translocation of species and the implications of intensive animal production in shared aquatic bodies are increasingly recognised. The need for guidance in managing the risks posed by international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products is addressed by the Fish Diseases Commission of the Office International des Epizooties. In the foreword to the 2001 edition of the International Aquatic Animal Health Code, it is stated that both the Code and its companion work, the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases, will be reviewed annually, with a new edition of the Code printed every year.

The International Aquatic Animal Health Code provides guidance on certification of the health status of aquatic animals for international trade, as well on import risk analysis and procedures to limit risk during import and export. A section on contingency planning has been added. Specifics on control measures for notifiable and significant diseases are listed in separate chapters. Information on hygiene includes useful chapters on disinfection of fish eggs and aquaculture facilities. Model international health certificates for different types of aquaculture products are again included, with the addition of a certificate for dead crustaceans. Any regulatory authority involved in aquatic animal health will find in the contents of the Code a complete framework for developing control measures to limit the spread of disease. A wealth of relevant detail is present, for example the table on disinfectants for fish farms. It lists all the commonly used disinfectant processes, both physical and chemical, and gives the indications for use as well as the dosage or method of use. The Code is primarily aimed at regulatory authorities and is unlikely to be of interest to the general practitioner or aquaculturist. However, it is required reading for anyone involved in certification or any other aspect of disease control in aquaculture at a national or international level.

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