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## Book review — Boekresensie

### Ratite management, medicine and surgery

Edited by T N Tully and S M Shane

1996. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida, USA, 160 pp., hard cover. Price £35.95. ISBN 0 89464 874 8.

In an attempt to collate the latest information in this rapidly expanding field and with the stated aim to serve a production-oriented ratite industry, 19 authors share 17 chapters on clinical anatomy, nutrition, biosecurity, restraint and handling, reproduction, hatchery management, anaesthesiology, surgical conditions, clinical haematology and chemistry, parasites, infectious diseases, developmental problems, therapeutics, examination and health certification, and jurisprudence.

The best chapters are those on nutrition (outstanding) and on clinical conditions and procedures. However, ratites have nothing in common with poultry, and this distinction has not always been made, as some of the other chapters clearly are adaptations of poultry papers. The chapter on infectious diseases appears in the main to be orientated towards North America. In addition to omissions, it also contains a number of inaccuracies: megabacteriosis, although reported from North America

as well as from South Africa, is not mentioned. There are several published reports on chlamydiosis in ostriches. The H7N1 strain of avian influenza did not cause mortality in ostrich chicks in Israel.

The ongoing outbreak of velogenic Newcastle disease in South Africa, which started in 1993, is not mentioned either. Perivascular lymphocytic cuffing in brains of ostriches that died of Newcastle disease has never been reported.

One forms the impression that the editors were in a hurry to submit the book to the publishers. However, that should not detract from its good points and from the wealth of information it contains. The clinician, particularly, will find this book to be a valuable addition to his library.

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