

Small Animal Toxicology Essentials

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Editors

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Dedication

A special thank-you to my wonderful family (Amy, Mia, and Zoe), to all the pets who depend on us to provide them with a safe and healthy environment, and to all of the dedicated veterinary technicians who enrich the veterinary profession.
–Robert H. Poppenga

This book is dedicated to my husband, Tom Brant, who provides unwavering support to all of my endeavors.
–Sharon Gwaltney-Brant

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This book is accompanied by a companion website at www.wiley.com/go/poppenga.
The website includes review questions and answers and color images available for download in PowerPoint.

Preface

As vital members of their veterinary medical teams, veterinary technicians are routinely involved in managing potential or real animal poisonings in several ways. In many cases, veterinary technicians are asked for information about the safety of a product, food, or plant. They may be the first to talk to a distraught client on the telephone and make initial decisions regarding the severity of a situation and the need for immediate action. They may perform the initial triage of a poisoned animal or initiate decontamination procedures when a poisoned patient is presented to a veterinary hospital. They may provide initial stabilization of a critically ill patient or collect samples to submit to a laboratory for confirmation of exposure or intoxication. For all of these reasons, veterinary technicians need to have a resource to help them in these tasks. Although several textbooks pertaining to veterinary toxicology have been published over the last several years, none were specifically targeted to veterinary technicians. *Small Animal Toxicology Essentials* is a valuable resource

for you. We have enlisted the help of veterinary toxicologists, emergency service technicians, and animal poison control specialists to help make this textbook as useful as possible. Our focus is on pet animals and the most common poisons that they are likely to encounter. Because of their inquisitive natures, pets may be exposed to a wide variety of agents with varying levels of toxicity. However, only a small fraction of exposures have the potential to cause clinically significant effects, and an even smaller fraction of exposures require extensive medical intervention. In order to assist in differentiating between significant and insignificant exposures, it is imperative that veterinary technicians have a handy resource available to provide information and guidance when needed. This is our objective in formulating and compiling *Small Animal Toxicology Essentials*.

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