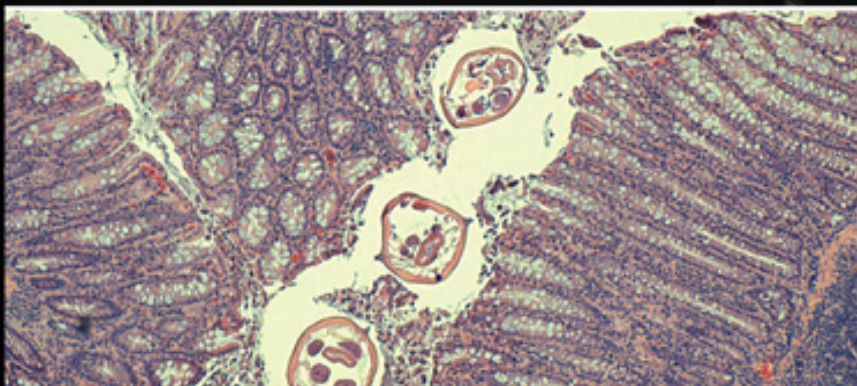


Sixth Edition

Harkness and Wagner's **Biology and Medicine** of **Rabbits and Rodents**

Patricia V. Turner • Colette L. Wheler • Hugues Beaufrère
Niora Fabian • John E. Harkness



American College
of Laboratory Animal
Medicine

WILEY

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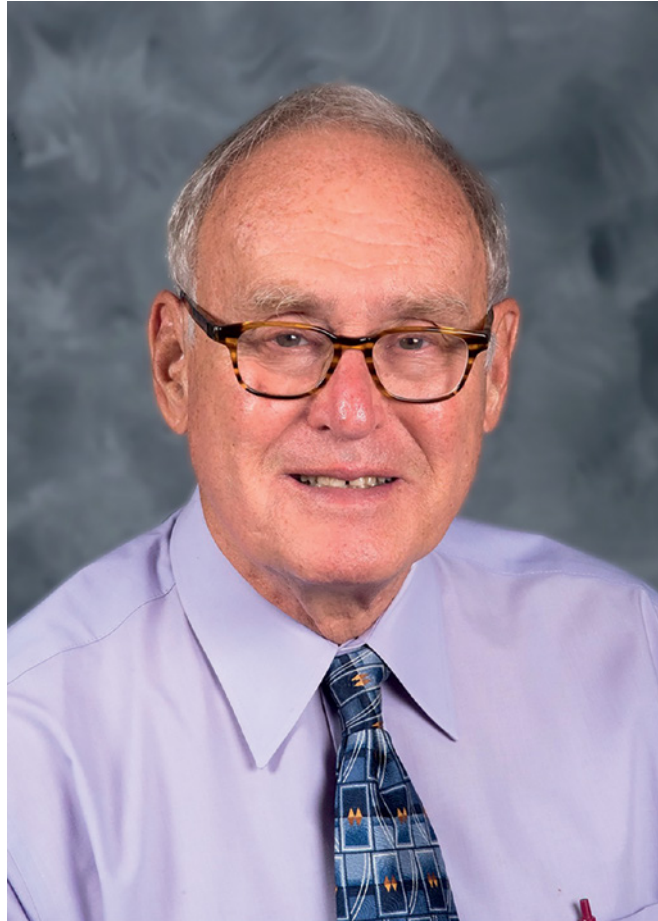
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This edition is dedicated to a devoted colleague and friend,
Dr John Harkness, 1939–2020.



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PREFACE

The *Biology and Medicine of Rabbits and Rodents* provides concise, up-to-date, reasonably comprehensive information to anyone concerned with the health, care, and management of rabbits and rodents. The book is intended for veterinarians, students, technicians, scientists, breeders, and those with a background in the biological sciences. A basic knowledge of biology and an interest in rabbits and rodents as pets, production animals, or laboratory animals are assumed. Beyond this, the emphasis throughout is on the practical aspects of rabbit and rodent care and health, and substantial detail is provided about many aspects of biology and husbandry, clinical signs and procedures, and specific diseases and their diagnoses. Distinctions between animals maintained for production, research or as companions are provided when relevant.

This book is intended to bridge the gap between the highly comprehensive hardcover reference works on various species of laboratory animals and a variety of class notes, handbooks, proceedings, autotutorial materials, and other publications used as references in practice or for teaching. The care and use of rabbits and rodents has changed considerably since the last edition of this text. The goal when writing this edition was to retain the easy-to-read practical style characteristic of previous editions, but to expand discussion of management and diseases that have evolved significantly since 1995.

Dr John Harkness, a close colleague and one of the original authors of this book, passed away during revision of this addition. We greatly appreciated his gentle but witty edits and corrections, as he challenged us to preserve the flavor and accessibility of previous editions. Every effort was made to correct errors and omissions from previous editions, and we welcome suggestions for improving and updating the next edition. Undoubtedly, despite our best intentions, errors will be discovered, and for these we apologize. We hope the new material added to this text will be helpful to new and seasoned readers of previous editions.

The major changes in this edition include revising certain disease descriptions under new taxonomic classifications; adding descriptions of new diseases, refined techniques such as quality assurance methods for rodent colony surveillance, conceptualization of research animal behavioral management programs, adding a section on welfare-friendly clinical practices, updating clinical techniques including anesthesia, analgesia, and pain recognition and management, and revising husbandry practices. The following diseases and conditions have been given new or expanded coverage: anorexia and dental disease, various enteric conditions of rabbits and rodents, heart disease, and adding new information on astrovirus, rabbit herpesviruses, hepatitis E of rabbits, and rabbit viral hemorrhagic disease. In Chapter 6, some case reports have been deleted, others modified, and new ones added. Many, many references have been eliminated or updated and some web-based resources have been included. Finally, over 150 images have been added to this edition, and almost all images are now in color.

We are humbled to have had the pleasure of working on the new edition of this classic text that has enjoyed such a loyal following over the decades. We can only hope that readers will be satisfied with our efforts, and that the information contained on the following pages will be used to improve the welfare of these interesting species that have contributed to human lives in countless positive ways.

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