Preface

Changes

The geographic distribution and prevalence of vector-borne disease are changing. Changes in disease prevalence have resulted from shifts in the geographic distribution of vectors and global movement of dogs and people. Advances in molecular and other diagnostic techniques have increased our ability to detect and differentiate disease-causing agents. These and other factors have contributed to an increased recognition of vector-borne disease in the United States and other parts of the world. This issue of the Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice highlights changes in the distribution, diagnosis, and treatment of select “classic” vector-borne disease agents, such as *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Rickettsia*, and *Bartonella*. It also highlights those that are less well known to practitioners in some regions due to their previously restricted geographic distributions. It is important for clinicians in every region of North America (and beyond) to be familiar with the clinical and laboratory abnormalities associated with these organisms because their geographic distributions are expanding and because, like many vector-borne agents, their clinical manifestations mimic other disease. For example, schistosomiasis is an important differential for a dog with protein-losing enteropathy with heterogenous small intestinal wall layering and pinpoint hyper-echoic foci in the bowel on ultrasound, and trypanosomiasis is a differential for a dog with dilated cardiomyopathy and arrhythmias. I hope that readers enjoy reading and learn as much as I did from this issue. The authors are thought-leaders in their fields, and, by writing these articles, it is my hope that the task of diagnosing and treating...
these sometimes elusive infectious diseases will be more straightforward for busy practicing veterinarians.

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