Antifungal Tool Box

Fungal diseases in animals have received much less attention than mycoses in humans. As the oldest known agents of infectious diseases in animals, this is surprising, because they are also responsible for a significant number of zoonotic infections. Finding the appropriate agent to treat a particular case can be a challenge, and many human antifungal agents are used off-label. These two papers provide an overview of antifungal agents currently in use in veterinary medicine—both on- and off-label—for treatment of large, small, and exotic animals, providing a useful and convenient reference tool for the practitioner. Chemical aspects of the different groups of antifungal agents, their spectra of activity, method of action, resistance, adverse reactions, and drug interactions are covered in detail. Practical applications and dosages that have proven successful in each species for the treatment and prevention of fungal infections are listed for easy access.

COMMENTARY: These two articles give a concise overview of antifungals—under one cover. Although many of these agents are not approved for veterinary use, practitioners can have confidence in the information because the articles are extensively referenced. — Katherine S. Gloyd, DVM
