Clinics Preface Template

## Title

Geriatric Medicine: Aged Horse Health, Management and Welfare

## Body of Preface

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2016 version of Geriatric Medicine which follows now 14 years after the excellent issue edited by Jennifer MacLeay in 2002. Although ‘Geriatric Medicine’ implies a focus on disease diagnosis and management, this issue, like its predecessor, retains a focus on management and preventive care, successful aging and quality of life which are important aspects of aged horse care.

This issue has also benefitted from a growing body of work in the veterinary literature, especially the excellent epidemiology PhD theses and subsequent publications by Dr Thomas McGowan and Dr Joanne Ireland on aged and geriatric horse health and welfare respectively. In the first review, Dr Ireland introduces and discusses that work and the key findings including the mismatch between a very apparent owner concern for their aged horses and their welfare, and their ability to recognize some of the most prevalent diseases.

The reviews involving the body systems in this issue reflect the highly prevalent conditions seen in both these studies – despite Dr McGowan’s data coming from Australian horses and Dr Ireland’s from UK horses, both studies had remarkable similarities, for example in the prevalence and ranked frequency of the most important conditions seen in aged horses – notably dental and musculoskeletal diseases, integumentary and ophthalmological disorders, and, cardiac, respiratory and endocrine diseases. It is for this reason that this issue focuses on these body systems, with the valuable contributions from leading clinical specialists and researchers in these fields.

Another key finding was suboptimal preventive healthcare for some horses as they aged, but in particular, following retirement. This was despite owners clearly indicating their interest in maximizing their horse’s health, welfare and quality of life. In some cases this was due to a lack of understanding, for example, owners assuming the cessation of travel or competition meant vaccination was no longer required. This issue contains reviews of exercise, immunology and nutrition of aged horses from leading researchers in these areas.

I would like to thank all of the authors for their contribution to this vitally important area of equine practice. I hope readers will benefit from the valuable knowledge shared by these authors and pass the information on to their clients and incorporate it into their daily clinical work for the benefit of all aged horses and their owners.

## Guest Editor’s name (or Editors’ names)

List the full name and degrees of each Guest Editor exactly as they should appear in print.

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## Guest Editor’s photo (or Editors’ photos)

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