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Contents

EDITORIAL

Editorial December 2024

Waner, T. 2

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Primary Immune-Mediated Thrombocytopenia Tentatively Diagnosed
in Four Cats

Slon, A. and Aroch, I. 3

Effective Concentration of Dipyrone in Drinking Water
in a Rat Model of Post-Operative Pain

Winkler, G. and Hecht, G. 12

CASE REPORT

Urethral Obstruction Caused by a Bullet Lodged in the
Urethra of a Cat: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

Kachtan, I. and Cohen, L. 19

Front Cover: **FLAMINGO**

Flamingos or flamingoes are a type of wading bird in the family Phoenicopteridae, which is the only extant family in the order Phoenicopteriformes. There are four flamingo species distributed throughout the Americas, and two species native to Afro-Eurasia. A group of flamingoes is called a "flamboyance" **flamingo**, (order Phoenicopteriformes), any of six species of tall, pink wading birds with thick downturned bills. Flamingos have slender legs, long, graceful necks, large wings, and short tails. They range from about 90 to 150 cm (3 to 5 feet) tall.

The nest is a truncated cone of muddy clay piled up a few inches in a shallow lagoon; both parents share the monthlong incubation of the one or two chalky-white eggs that are laid in the hollow of the cone. Downy white young leave the nest in two or three days and are fed by regurgitation of partly digested food by the adults. Subadults are whitish, acquiring the pink plumage with age.

The salt ponds are a winter residence for hundreds of flamingos. In the fall migration, they come to Israel from distant nesting areas. Apparently, some of them come from a reserve in the Izmir region of Turkey, and others from Lake Rumiya in Iran. The common flamingo can be found in the salt ponds in Atlit and Eilat in the winter and during the migration seasons, and with rare frequency in the summer season. In recent years many of the flamingos in Eilat stay all year round, although they do not nest there. In addition, the flamingo in Israel tends to wander to the fish ponds on the Carmel beach.