



Preface

Topics in feline surgery



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Guest Editor

This issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* is devoted to feline disorders amenable to surgical treatments. With 73 million feline pets currently exceeding their 68 million canine counterparts (*US News & World Report* July 2001), and the increasing number of exclusively feline practices and practitioners, a need exists for a relevant review of surgically related conditions affecting cats. To reach this goal, information has been collected ranging from “hot” topics such as pain management, dental diseases, and sarcomas to recurrent clinical themes involving hyperthyroidism, megacolon, and urethrostomy. Additionally, the standard afflictions of the eyes, nasopharynx, abdominal viscera, bones, and joints are covered in this issue.

Presentation of these topics has been geared for generalists and specialists serving feline patients. Both hard and soft tissue procedures are detailed to provide the reader with a broad knowledge base. Furthermore, contributors were chosen from academic and private practices throughout the United States in an effort to diversify the scope of the text.

Most, if not all, feline “owners” and veterinarians will unequivocally proclaim that “*cats are not small dogs*” and should be treated as unique patients. In terms of recognizing the needs of feline patients, much credit should be given, from a historical perspective, to the classic texts of Drs. J. Holzworth (*Diseases of the Cat*) and Robert Sherding (*The Cat—Diseases and Clinical Management*) first published in the late 1980s.

As the guest editor of this issue, I wish to thank the authors who graciously took time from their professional positions to provide concise

information based on their extensive clinical experiences. Mr. John Vassallo, at W. B. Saunders, deserves credit for the development and production of this issue, our second enjoyable joint venture. Finally, I dedicate this publication to my current and former feline companions whose presence has thoroughly enriched my life.

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