



Preface

Critical care: respiratory focus



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Guest Editor

Critical care has become an important facet of many medical and surgical small animal cases. The specialty continues to grow and to draw practitioners interested in dedicating their careers to intensive case management. The skilled critical care practitioner can lend an additional perspective to the management of the seriously ill patient and is often instrumental in affecting the outcome of these patients.

This issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* is the second in a series of two issues covering the topic of Critical Care. The first issue, published in November 2001, focused on topics related to the cardiovascular system and addressed shock, resuscitation, electrolyte and acid-base derangements, and patient monitoring. This issue focuses on the respiratory system and covers respiratory failure, respiratory monitoring, respiratory pharmacotherapy, and pulmonary support with oxygen and mechanical ventilation. In addition to the respiratory topics, we have also included general critical care topics such as nosocomial infection, bacterial translocation, analgesia, and parenteral nutrition. My hope is that these two issues will together provide a comprehensive and updated view of small animal critical care.

Once again, I would like to thank the authors for their excellent contributions. Their willingness to share their knowledge will benefit many critical patients. I would also like to thank my husband for his consistent support and encouragement; I could not accommodate projects such as this into

my life so gracefully without him. Finally, thanks to John Vassallo at WB Saunders for his help and editorial expertise.

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