

Preface

## Ear disease



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*Guest Editor*

Ear disease, particularly otitis externa, is common in veterinary practice. Although the external ear canal is accessible, it is not always easy to evaluate. Disorders of the middle and inner ear can be even more challenging to assess. Within the past decade, advances in technology have increased our ability to evaluate the external, middle, and inner ear. One example is the endoscopic otoscope, which provides improved visualization of the external ear canal, tympanic membrane, and portions of the tympanic bulla. Another example is advanced imaging, such as CT and MRI. By creating cross-sectional images of the ear canal, tympanic bulla, and surrounding osseous and soft tissue structures, these modalities provide additional information that cannot be obtained with radiographs.

This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* brings together several veterinary disciplines for a comprehensive review of the normal and diseased ear. It begins with anatomy and physiology of the ear, which is the foundation for understanding otic pathology. The next articles describe evaluation of the ear from dermatologic, neurologic, and diagnostic imaging perspectives. Neoplastic diseases of the ear and disorders of the ear pinnae are then reviewed. Finally, medical and surgical treatment of

ear disease is detailed. I would like to thank the authors for contributing their knowledge and expertise to this issue.

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