

Preface

Current Issues in Cardiology



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Guest Editor

It has been six years since the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* has addressed topics in cardiology. Although the expression “information explosion” is somewhat hackneyed, it is also apt; in the 30-some years since the birth of modern veterinary cardiology, knowledge has expanded at an astonishing rate. Therefore, when asked to compile and edit an issue that could take its place in the venerable *Clinics* series, I was initially at a loss. I was struck not only by the magnitude of recent advances, but also by their diversity. To emphasize a single topic in cardiology might serve to diminish important findings in other areas. Possibly, this approach would also lead to an ultimately unrewarding digression into esoterica. Instead, this issue addresses a broad range of subjects in an attempt to provide an overview of current topics in veterinary cardiology.

The initial articles outline recent advances in cardiovascular diagnosis. The use of neuroendocrine biomarkers in the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease is addressed, and then recent advances in the practice of echocardiology are reviewed. Subsequent articles address current issues in cardiovascular therapy: the use of the inodilator pimobendan is reviewed, the potential of beta-blockade in the management systolic dysfunction is evaluated, and the growing field of minimally invasive techniques is represented by a review of interventional antiarrhythmic therapy. The therapeutic challenges posed by atrial fibrillation are the focus of another article. Finally, in a series of updates, current issues in the diagnostic and therapeutic management of specific disorders are addressed. The reader is fortunate that prominent experts were willing to share their views on such vital and exciting topics

in veterinary cardiology. As Guest Editor, I was fortunate that such accomplished clinical scientists gave freely of their time and expertise. I wish to acknowledge these authors and express sincere thanks for their willingness to contribute to this issue.

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