

PREFACE

General Orthopedics



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Guest Editor

This issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* reviews the basic topic of small animal orthopedics. Orthopedic disease is an immense topic, and the discussion can be very complex. Subsequently, the concepts are difficult to cover adequately in a given forum and can be frustrating for the practitioner to review efficiently. Our hope is to partially fill the gap between large textbooks and journal articles. The former are capable of covering a wide variety of topics, but may become dated and suffer from having to balance detail on a given concept with the length of each section. The latter are generally current and detailed, but are specific enough to not be an efficient review source for many veterinarians. Our hope is that this issue falls somewhere in the middle—providing sufficiently detailed information on a good number of topics. We hope that we can provide an update and a review for the practitioner who has a genuine interest in staying current with orthopedic disease management.

The articles in this issue have been selected to cover the most commonly encountered orthopedic diseases as well as to touch upon new or often-confusing topics. We begin with a review of bone healing, arthritis, and bone infections, then discuss developmental diseases and fracture management. These are broad categories that most readers are familiar with in some ways. The articles discuss newer findings and highlight points that readers will find helpful as they review. The articles that follow—neoplasia, luxations, and tendon disease—are discussions of specific orthopedic ailments commonly encountered by the small animal practitioner. Finally, articles on joint

replacement and new diseases are designed to bring readers up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.

The authors hope that the readers will find this issue to be a useful tool in learning about orthopedic topics they have not pursued and to inspire them to review developments in areas in which they may feel a little rusty. The references point readers to more detailed coverage.

As Guest Editor, I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the authors who have contributed to this issue. Their shared experience and knowledge is an invaluable resource. I also express my thanks to Elsevier for allowing me this opportunity to share information with my colleagues in the veterinary profession.

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