

### PREFACE

## Updates in Dermatology



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*Guest Editor*

**D**ermatologic disorders are among the most common reasons clients seek professional help from veterinarians. The continued recognition of new dermatologic disorders and the development of new treatment modalities result in ongoing challenges for veterinarians desiring to provide accurate diagnoses and effective treatment plans for patients. The purpose of this issue is to provide veterinarians with state-of-the-art information regarding the recognition and management of important dermatologic diseases as well as with updates pertaining to new therapeutic modalities in dermatology.

The first article focuses on pain management strategies for patients who have dermatologic disorders and pain associated with diagnostic procedures. Pain management is a rapidly expanding area of veterinary medicine, and dermatology patients present numerous unique challenges; these challenges are reviewed in this article. The second article focuses on the use of CO<sub>2</sub> lasers, which have been proven to be highly useful in dermatology. This article includes multiple “before” and “after” photographs illustrating the use of CO<sub>2</sub> lasers in various skin disorders. Maintaining a current, practical database in veterinary therapeutics is an important challenge. The third article discusses several medications with new uses in veterinary dermatology.

There is growing interest in urban medicine, shelter medicine, and the placement of abandoned animals in new homes. Dermatology plays an important

role in shelter medicine for many reasons, including contagion, zoonoses, the importance of animal appearance in adoption decisions, and the amount of care certain skin disorders require for management. The fourth article discusses common skin diseases of shelter cats, and the fifth article focuses on updates regarding dermatophytosis—one of the most common problems encountered when large numbers of cats are housed in a shelter.

Cats now rank ahead of dogs as the most commonly owned household pet. Thus, it is highly important that veterinarians be familiar with feline dermatologic disorders. The sixth article reviews current knowledge regarding a variety of feline facial dermatoses, while the seventh article focuses on eosinophilic dermatoses, a heterogeneous group of diseases commonly secondary to underlying hypersensitivity disorders. The diagnoses and management of these diseases in cats and dogs are reviewed.

Allergies have been the focus of increased attention and research in both humans and animals throughout the last decade. The eighth article discusses state-of-the-art information regarding the pathogenesis of atopy. The article emphasizes the importance of understanding the multifactorial nature of atopy and of using multiple therapeutic modalities individualized for each patient. The ninth article provides updates on the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of patients with food allergies.

Bacterial infections are one of the most common dermatologic disorders of dogs. Recent studies have identified several new species of *Staphylococcus* that cause disease in dogs. Some of these may be zoonotic. The tenth article reviews the various species of *Staphylococcus* that produce diseases in pets and discusses the importance of recognizing and treating emerging pathogens. One of the most frustrating forms of pyoderma is that which occurs in German shepherds. The eleventh article is devoted to reviewing the current state of knowledge of this disease and its treatment.

Cutaneous T cell lymphoma, the most common type of cutaneous lymphoma in dogs, has traditionally been reported to have a grave prognosis. However, through recent studies, several new treatment modalities have been identified that offer promising results. These are discussed in the twelfth article. Demodicosis continues to be an important common skin disease in dogs. Fortunately, many options are currently available for its treatment. These are reviewed in the thirteenth chapter. Sebaceous adenitis is being diagnosed with increasing frequency in dogs. It has also been described in cats and rabbits. The fourteenth article discusses current information pertaining to the cause, diagnosis, and treatment of this condition. Vesicular cutaneous lupus erythematosus is a disease affecting collies and Shetland sheepdogs. The diagnosis and treatment of this newly described disease are reviewed in the final article.

Hopefully, this issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* will achieve its goal of helping readers increase their understanding of recent advances in veterinary dermatology and, thereby, improve their ability to effectively diagnose and treat patients with skin disease. Special thanks are due to the authors for sharing their timely knowledge and professional expertise.

I am also appreciative of John Vassallo's editorial expertise and his willingness to include color illustrations within the articles.

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