

Preface



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Guest Editor

It has been an honor for me to be the guest editor for this edition of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, which is devoted to the thyroid. Since publication of the last issue on this topic more than 10 years ago, a great deal of knowledge has been realized and clarified in our understanding and recognition of thyroid disease. Detailed investigations into the etiopathology of thyroid diseases have increased our understanding of how these common endocrinopathies occur. Development of more accurate testing methodology has allowed the disease to be correctly diagnosed, and effective treatment regimes have resulted in better control of the disease. We have learned to recognize the wide range of concurrent clinical syndromes encompassing hyper- and hypothyroid disease in small animals. With the ability to identify subtle manifestations of thyroid disease, diagnosis and treatment can be given more quickly to benefit patients. Moreover, syndromes associated with thyroid disease can be more effectively managed.

I have organized this edition to take the reader through the whole spectrum of thyroid disease in, what is hopefully, an orderly fashion. The first two articles summarize our current understanding of the etiology of thyroid disease. The third and fourth articles are devoted to new testing modalities for hypo- and hyperthyroidism. The next five articles focus on the spectrum of electrolyte disorders and clinical syndromes occurring with thyroid disease, including manifestations of thyroid cancer. Finally, the last three articles conclude with current treatment modalities of thyroid disease, which include medicine, surgery, and radiation approaches.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with leaders in the field of thyroid medicine. I thank all the authors for taking the time to contribute their expertise

to this publication. I hope the reader will find the summation of this material interesting, enlightening, and helpful for everyday clinical practice.

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