

## Preface



Lynelle R. Johnson, DVM, MS, PhD

*Guest Editor*

Upper and lower respiratory tract diseases are encountered commonly in small animal practice and often represent both a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. A thorough physical examination is helpful in localizing disease to a particular region within the respiratory tract. Knowledge of the etiology and pathophysiology of disease assists the clinician in formulating an accurate diagnostic plan. Ultimately, effective treatment depends on determining the cause and severity of respiratory dysfunction.

This issue brings together a number of talented individuals in the disciplines of medicine, radiology, and surgery to provide a comprehensive update on important issues in respiratory medicine. The first articles in this issue reinforce the relevant physiology and immunology of the respiratory tract that are needed to understand clinical manifestations of disease and to recognize infectious, inflammatory, and structural diseases in respiratory patients. Articles on physical examination, cardiopulmonary interactions, respiratory therapy, and nutrition for the respiratory patient provide pearls of wisdom for both diagnostic testing and clinical management. A comprehensive article on diagnostic imaging nicely demonstrates the complementary roles of radiology and computed tomography in the diagnosis of respiratory disease. Finally, specific articles on challenging infectious and inflammatory diseases of the upper and lower respiratory tract illustrate the value of combining scientific research and clinical medicine to improve animal health.

This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* will serve as a valuable source of information in the years to come. Many thanks to the contributing authors, many of whom have expanded our knowledge of respiratory tract diseases with their efforts in research and through participation in the Veterinary Comparative Respiratory Society. Special thanks to my

mentor and friend, Dr. Brendan McKiernan, who continues to teach me everything I know.

Lynelle R. Johnson, DVM, MS, PhD  
Department of Medicine and Epidemiology  
2108 Tupper Hall  
University of California at Davis  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616, USA

*E-mail address:* [lrjohnson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lrjohnson@ucdavis.edu)