

## Preface



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Guest Editors

*Our Mission is to enhance the quality and quantity of life of companion animals. We are committed to development of noninvasive methods that will consistently and safely prevent and cure diseases of the urinary system. Our Mission encompasses compassionate utilization of contemporary science and selection of clinical teams to provide care that we would select for ourselves. We are dedicated to the welfare of our patients first—and last!*

*Mission Statement of the Minnesota Urolith Center, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN*

The preface of a symposium on canine urolithiasis published in the March 1986 issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* stated in part:

*A nineteenth-century philosopher, Theodor Biroth, penned this thought: 'It is a most gratifying sign of rapid progress of our time that our best textbooks become antiquated so quickly.' It is our hope that the information contained in this issue will rapidly become antiquated as a result of continued research, ultimately leading to the prevention of uroliths.<sup>1</sup>*

Since 1986, our hope became a reality, as evidenced by the growth of knowledge about the causes, consequences, detection, and innovative methods of nonsurgical dissolution and prevention of all forms of canine urolithiasis. The January 1999 issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* (titled "The ROCKet Science of Canine Urolithiasis") provided additional information.<sup>2</sup> As summarized in the article titled "Medical Dissolution and Prevention of Canine Uroliths," "urolithiasis is no longer solely the province of the surgeon."<sup>3</sup>

The time has passed when feline sterile struvite uroliths require surgery to be removed. Surgical removal of other types of uroliths, notably canine infection-induced struvite, canine cystine, and salts of urate, is moving toward an antiquated status. However, as discussed in several articles in this issue, we still are in search of effective methods to dissolve calcium oxalate, calcium phosphate, and silica uroliths.

During the past 2 years, we have become aware of a new mineral type of urolith in dogs and cats that consume pet food adulterated with combination of melamine and

cyanuric acid. When cats or dogs consume melamine and cyanuric acid in sufficient quantities, acute renal failure and urolithiasis often occur. Recently, we have learned that human infants who have consumed milk formula adulterated with melamine also form uroliths.

We have made significant progress in our “War on Urolithiasis.”<sup>4</sup> With your continued help, we can move ever closer to the day that surgery is no longer needed to remove most uroliths. However, that day has not arrived yet. Keeping this objective in clear focus, please join us in our efforts to hasten the arrival of the day when countless lives will be spared suffering and death from urinary stones. We need your knowledge and wisdom in our efforts to leave “no stone unturned” as we strive to unearth and eliminate the causes of urolithiasis. Cornerstones have been placed, but we are dependent on your help to continue to build the foundation that will result in the development of safe, effective, and practical medical protocols that will consistently dissolve or prevent all types of uroliths.

We thank John Vassallo, editor of this journal, for his nurturing patience. In our experience, this refreshing quality is acquired only by a few editors. They recognize that the quality of an article will be remembered long after the time to compose it is forgotten.

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