

Preface



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Guest Editor

Pet owners are increasingly aware of the advances in the practice of medicine and have come to expect the same for their pets. Endoscopy entered the veterinary field as a diagnostic tool, but the limitations of its use have been shattered in the past few years. Veterinary endoscopy started with viewing through natural orifices. There is not one that has not been “scoped;” however, entry into body cavities and other sites rapidly followed. Many interventional techniques are now well described; some have become the standard of care for certain conditions, and some are still “works in progress.” The future of endoscopy is bright, to say the least. The minimal invasiveness of the techniques described in this issue has allowed veterinary patients to benefit from the rapid recovery and shortened duration of hospitalization. The development of these techniques was pioneered by physicians, and the equipment is becoming more available and specialized for veterinary use in the very large to the tiniest of patients.

This issue provides a general overview of the possibilities of endoscopy in clinical practice and will open doors for future endoscopists to develop their enthusiasm for the technique. The learning curve may be high, but many training centers exist and can jump start one to the path of minimally invasive diagnosis and therapy! Attending a continuing education experience should include hands-on practice. Further practice and application of the concepts will hone the skills required for successful endoscopy. Beginning with diagnostic techniques and slowly expanding to therapeutic ones provides a solid base upon which to grow. Starting a minimally invasive procedure and setting a time limit allows for repeated exposure to the methods used. If much progress has been made within that time limit, the procedure may be completed endoscopically; if not, convert to an open approach. Learn from every procedure—what

worked well, how the technique can be improved, and if changing the approach would be beneficial—and welcome to the ever-expanding world of endoscopy!

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