

Preface

Update in Soft Tissue Surgery



André Desrochers, DMV, MS
Guest Editor

As a guest editor, my personal goal was to demonstrate the paradox in food animal surgery. One day, a surgeon can perform a laparoscopic abomasopexy and the day after castrates so many calves in a feedlot and finishes the day by performing a cesarean section. Two major differences exist in food animal surgery compared with equine and small animal surgery: profit-driven industry and surgical theater. Economics is important in every species, even human surgery, but nothing compared with food animal. The surgical theater is the biggest difference compared with other species. Trying to suture a cesarean section on a moving and kicking target is more a matter of stunt ability than surgical training. Also, surgical procedures are performed in unclean and hostile environments containing dust, wind, flies, and herd mates.

Food animal surgery has progressed over the years, adapting state-of-the-art technology (eg, laparoscopy, theloscopy, and ultrasound) to field conditions. Welfare issues raised by the general public, veterinarians, and farmers have led to changes in pain management, which previous took into consideration economic concerns only. Not long ago, it was common practice to dehorn calves without analgesia and sedation. Today, based on research, veterinarians know this practice is not acceptable. Food animal surgeons should be proactive and participate actively in promoting good surgical practice for routine surgery and develop new techniques with collaborative work between universities and private practice.

I would like to acknowledge all the authors for their outstanding contributions. It was a pleasure to read these articles and, most of all, to have the privilege of corresponding with these authors. Food animal surgery has made much progress and has a bright future. I also wish to thank Dr. Bob Smith for giving me this opportunity to serve as a guest editor. This issue could not be possible without the outstanding work of John Vassallo and the editorial staff of the *Veterinary Clinics*. Thanks to all pioneers in food animal surgery and especially to Dr. Bruce Hull and Dr. Guy St-Jean, who are great ambassadors of food animal surgery and great teachers to me. This issue is for you.

André Desrochers, DMV, MS
Department of Clinical Sciences
Université de Montréal
Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire
3200, Sicotte, St Hyacinthe
Québec, J2S 6K9, Canada

E-mail address: andre.desrochers@umontreal.ca