Many veterinarians consider neurology to be one of the most difficult specialties. This trepidation surely has its origins in veterinary school when the student encounters his or her first patient with neurologic disease. Having already been exposed to neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neuropathology, the student is already overwhelmed by the complexity of the nervous system. This apprehension is heightened as the student attempts to perform and interpret the multiple, unfamiliar procedures making up the neurologic examination. Finally, the numerous specific diseases of the nervous system, many of which seem difficult to diagnose and treat, are hardly reassuring.

The purpose of this issue is to present a logical, practical approach to the common neurologic disorders of dogs and cats. The goal is to help the veterinarian realize that many neurologic diseases can be successfully managed by the general practitioner. The first article describes the initial approach to patients with neurologic dysfunction. The remaining articles explain the diagnosis and management of specific neurologic diseases commonly encountered by the small animal clinician.

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