Organizing this volume of *The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* has been a rewarding experience, and I look forward to its publication. Managing the voice mail system for small animal reproduction consult calls at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, California, has given me insight to practitioners' areas of interest and concern. It was easy to identify clinicians within the field of small animal theriogenology with expertise in these areas, having worked in concert with them for many years. To my amazement, they all agreed to take time out of their very busy schedules to contribute to this volume. I wholeheartedly thank each one. We all look forward to referring practitioners to this well recognized text.

The field of small animal theriogenology is uniquely diverse, encompassing board certified theriogenologists, internists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nutritionists, as well as doctorates of genetics; all have participated in this volume. Additionally, general practitioners with a special interest in and practice limited to theriogenology contributed their excellent knowledge to the effort. These authors illustrate the exciting diversity present in our practice of small animal reproduction. Collaboration among veterinarians practicing small animal reproduction, both nationally and internationally, is increasing. Attendance at scientific meetings devoted to small animal theriogenology reflects this growing interest. Veterinary students and residents in theriogenology and internal medicine seek additional time on small animal reproduction rotations, anticipating future caseloads. The demand for knowledgeable reproductive clinicians is familiar to anyone in small animal practice.

While contemplating this preface, I reviewed the comments of Drs. Shirley Johnston and Stefano Romagnoli prefacing *The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* 21(3): Canine Reproduction, 1991. They enthusiastically called for further studies in the areas of early chemical pregnancy diagnosis, canine cryopreservation, early neuter/spay, chilled/extended semen breedings, pregnancy termination with anti-progestational compounds, and optimizing reproductive performance and whelping success. Amazingly, we as a specialty, have accomplished all this. I will dedicate this volume, by giving my encourage-
ment for further studies in assisted reproductive technology, especially for ovum
harvest and preservation, molecular genetic screening, immunocontraception,
early detection of congenital defects, and fertile estrus induction. We should
continue to educate our clients and the public about the pet overpopulation
problem and strive to gain control over irresponsible production and problematic
placement of pets. We will debate and study canine cloning, and I admit,
although I have concerns about the long-term outcome of developing this tech­
nique, if I could clone the perfect Guide Dog, I would!

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