

## Preface

# Dentistry



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*Guest Editor*

“I did a dental” is a common statement by veterinarians and technicians. This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America Small Animal Practice* illustrates that there is no such thing as “a dental.” Veterinary dentistry has continued to evolve, with many new concepts and techniques; as time goes by, there will continue to be advancements in veterinary dentistry. As interest grows, more practitioners become involved and all benefit.

The purpose of this issue is to provide the reader with information that facilitates a better understanding of veterinary dentistry. The text begins with the basics of anatomy and proceeds to articles on standards in veterinary dentistry, fundamentals of juvenile dentistry, diseases of the gums, diseases of the root canal system, and occlusion. Through the years, practitioners have been frustrated by two conditions in the cat, gingivostomatitis and tooth resorption; three articles have been devoted to these conditions. Oral surgery is an important area in veterinary dentistry. The fundamentals of surgery through extractions, maxillofacial fracture repair, and mandibulectomy procedures are covered in succeeding articles. Finally, the importance of pain control locally and systemically should not be overlooked.

I would like to thank the authors for their contributions to this edition. Also, I would like to thank all those who have participated in forwarding the profession through membership in the American Veterinary Dental

College, Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, and American Veterinary Dental Society.

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