Pediatric patients are great when they are healthy and presented for well puppy or kitten checks and routine vaccinations (but even those have become controversial). They are the darlings of practice, usually associated with happy and enthusiastic clients and serving to remind veterinary staff why clinical practice is fun and fulfilling.

When pediatric patients are sick, however, everything changes. Small and fragile, puppies and kittens defy routine diagnostics and therapeutics and are usually quite seriously ill when presented, demanding critical attention and informed intervention. Sick pediatric patients pose a special challenge to veterinarians and their staff. The reader should find every article in this issue helpful and insightful, as I did, when faced with pediatric cases.

Veterinary pediatrics has advanced into the subspecialties—exemplified in this issue—as our knowledge base has expanded. Great brains of extremely busy folk contributed to the effort to provide this informative resource for veterinary pediatric practice. I am most grateful to them, because the time spent on this issue was above and beyond busy clinical and academic practice in every instance.