Preface

Chronic Intestinal Diseases of Dogs and Cats—Update from the 21st Century

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Guest Editor

It is very exciting to see this issue of the Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice devoted to chronic intestinal disorders in print. Eight long years have gone by since the last issue focusing on small animal gastroenterology was published. Meanwhile, numerous research groups have investigated important issues in the vast field of chronic enteropathies in small animals in many parts of the world, even though it does sometimes feel like we are moving one step forward and then two steps backward in our understanding of these diseases. Despite the fact that each question researchers attempt to answer has the potential to reveal several new questions that need to be investigated, a lot of new data are available that are relevant for small animal veterinarians. It is the goal of this volume to bring the reader up to date.

Some of the best international experts have accepted to write outstanding reviews in their field of research or clinical expertise in this issue, and I am very grateful to all of them who invested a lot of time in this volume’s articles. I also want to thank Mr John Vassallo and the staff at Elsevier for their support and flexibility.

The topics include the intestinal flora, a world we cannot ignore any more, as it exerts a major influence on the digestive health of our patients. Other authors will show what hides behind the term “antibiotic-responsive diarrhea,” and also what bacteria to consider when infectious enteritis is suspected. Additionally, very practical contributions on laboratory diagnosis and small intestinal ultrasound will be helpful for the diagnostic workup. Our knowledge of gastrointestinal immunology in dogs and cats has exploded and constitutes an essential basis for our understanding of inflammatory bowel disease, protein-losing enteropathies, and adverse reactions to food, which are hot topics for small animal veterinarians. Help is also available in this volume for diagnosis and treatment of alimentary lymphoma, a neoplasia that can be difficult to
differentiate from IBD, especially in cats. The article on granulomatous colitis of boxers and English bulldogs is written by the clinicians and researchers who revolutionized our understanding of the disease. The confusing topic of idiopathic large bowel diarrhea in dogs is also revisited. Finally, two experts comment on what correlation can be expected between clinical disease activity and histopathological assessment of gastrointestinal lesion severity and conclude this comprehensive update from the 21st century.

I hope that the reader will come back to this volume regularly and be able to use it to answer important clinical questions.

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