Preface
Otology and Otic Diseases

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Guest Editors

It has been 8 years since Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice covered the topic of ear diseases. That issue provided a comprehensive review of the normal and diseased ear, incorporating advances in technology with regard to diagnosis of disease, such as endoscopic otoscopes, as well as advanced imaging techniques, including CT and MRI. A majority of the articles focused on external ear disease but few dealt with the other portions of the ear.

Our goal is to provide an issue that is complementary to the previous issue on ear disease with a primary focus on the middle and internal ear. The reader may find the word “internal” to be an unfamiliar term and may be accustomed to the “inner” ear. However, derived from Latin roots, the different compartments of the ear include auris externa or external ear, auris media or middle ear, and auris interna or internal ear.

This issue begins with a brief review of anatomy and physiology of the ear to provide a foundation for the remainder of the issue. Given the paucity of publications that describe pathology of the middle and internal ear, we address this by providing anatomic landmarks and methods for collecting and processing the middle and internal portions of the ear as part of the necropsy exam. This is followed by an article about primary secretory otitis media, a relatively newly described disease that mainly afflicts Cavalier King Charles spaniel dogs and an article on otic masses. Next, there are 5 articles that specifically address conditions of the internal ear beginning with neurological manifestations of ear disease followed by feline deafness, canine deafness, canine hearing loss management, and electrodiagnostic evaluation of auditory function. The final article of this issue is an account of the causes and mechanisms of otoxicity. Where appropriate, glossaries have been included as part of the articles, which are highly specialized or use terminology that may be unfamiliar to most.

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