Preface

Clinical Veterinary Dentistry

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Editor

Most recently, small animal dental editions of *Veterinary Clinics of North America* have been published in 1986, 1992 (feline), 1998 (canine), and 2005. This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America* serves as a clinically oriented update on veterinary dentistry. Veterinary dentistry is best practiced as an annual renewable service of every dog and cat every year of their life. It is our goal to aid the day-to-day practitioner in their practice of providing quality dental service for their clients and their patients.

Oral care is essential for optimum health and quality of life. There is a standard of care that must be provided for veterinary services; this standard is documented in the first article. Many therapeutic and decision-making skills are used in planning and executing this standard of care, as covered in the second article.

Arguably the most important advancement in veterinary dentistry in the past decade is the addition of digital intraoral radiography. Three articles are devoted to this very important area in veterinary dentistry. The articles include oral and dental imaging equipment and techniques to get good intraoral radiographs, and the interpretation of these radiographs for dogs and cats.

Oral inflammation in both the dog and the cat continues to be a challenge to the practitioner. The reality is that many problems can be solved by extraction of the teeth; therefore, an article has been devoted to simple and surgical exodontia. The veterinarian is often called on to surgically treat maxillofacial disease and one article has been devoted to equipment, whereas another article has been devoted to the surgical treatment of various oral conditions. The article includes congenital malformation, fractures, and neoplasia.

An article has been devoted to the technologies of laser and electro/radiosurgery. And last, but not least, a clinical update on anesthesia and pain management has been included. The understanding of pain and its control has gone hand in hand with the development of veterinary dentistry.

It is hoped that this edition will aid the day-to-day practitioner in the practice of this discipline. It is a compilation of work by veterinary dentists involved both in private
practice and at universities. I would like to thank the veterinary dental community for their generosity in the sharing of knowledge that has taken place on almost a daily basis over the Internet and on a yearly basis at such meetings as the Veterinary Dental Forum (www.veterinarydentalforum.com). Such sharing, as well as the individual contributions herein, helped to make this issue possible.

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