Preface

Update: Small Animal Pediatrics

Pediatric patients continue to be the darlings of veterinary practice. They are, of course, endearing just in themselves. In my reproductive practice, the litter exam is often the rewarding end result and highlight of a challenging subfertility case. Pediatric patients offer the opportunity to begin the veterinarian:client:patient relationship anew when presented by their enthusiastic owner. The veterinarian has the perfect opportunity to educate about preventative medicine and dentistry, behavior modification, infectious and parasitic disease control, and neutering.

But veterinary pediatrics is challenging. Our patients are small and fragile; technology is limited, and resources are often restricted. Recognition of congenital and acquired disorders with a heritable basis requires diplomacy. Controversies fueled by the Internet now surround the very basics of veterinary pediatrics: vaccination and neutering.

Again, I heartily thank the busy veterinarians who took time from their clinical and academic practices to contribute to this update in veterinary pediatrics. As always, I learned a lot from reading their articles and I am proud to share them with our profession.

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