Preface

Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy

It has been 10 years since Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice dedicated an issue to rehabilitation and physical therapy. During that period of time, the field has been growing steadily, and the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation has been established. It is time to share new developments and techniques that are used in the rehabilitation of companion animals. The same group of editors who collaborated on the 2005 issue has been collaborating on the current issue, and an outstanding group of authors has joined the editors to prepare the content.

This issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice contains 10 articles that present new and updated general information on the scientific foundation of rehabilitation, therapeutic modalities, therapeutic exercise, and nutrition for patients undergoing rehabilitation. The use of therapeutic lasers has grown in recent years, and an article is dedicated to this emerging therapy. Two articles cover physical activities, focusing on stretching and range of motion and on therapeutic exercises. Several articles focus on patients with specific problems: orthopedic patients, neurologic patients, patients in need of orthosis and exoprostheses, and sporting dogs. For the first time in the veterinary literature, an article is dedicated to the needs of dogs and cats recovering from total joint arthroplasty. Another article focuses on cats undergoing rehabilitation.

The information included in this issue is intended to be readily applied to the practice of rehabilitation and physical therapy. Many patients still experience slow recoveries and complications that could potentially be avoided if practical and cost-effective rehabilitation programs were included. Nevertheless, the field has experienced considerable growth over the last 10 years. Rather than being an exotic and alternative form of practice, physical rehabilitation is now an integral part of practice for many clinicians who help patients recover from injuries and surgery.
The editors sincerely hope that the information included in this issue positively impacts the practice of rehabilitation and the lives of injured companion animals and their owners.

Denis J. Marcellin-Little, DEDV  
Department of Clinical Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
North Carolina State University  
1052 William Moore Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607, USA

David Levine, PT, PhD, DPT, CCRP, Cert. DN  
Department of Physical Therapy  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
615 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37403, USA

Darryl L. Millis, MS, DVM, DACVS, CCRP, DACVSMR  
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Tennessee  
2407 River Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37996, USA

E-mail addresses:  
denis_marcellin@ncsu.edu (D.J. Marcellin-Little)  
David-Levine@utc.edu (D. Levine)  
dmillis@utk.edu (D.L. Millis)