Preface
Soft Tissue Surgery: A Rapidly Evolving Field

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The field of small animal surgery has undergone a rapid evolution that has seen numerous techniques and practices being developed in and introduced to companion animal surgery. Such evolution often has been brought about because of adaptation of practices used in human surgery for use in companion animals. In addition, many of today’s clients have come to expect a level of sophistication in small animal surgery that rivals that of human surgery.

This issue focuses on current concepts of soft tissue surgery and associated subjects. The first article discusses current concepts in oncologic surgery, followed by a discussion of surgical staplers and vessel sealing devices that facilitate oncologic surgery as well as a host of other soft tissue procedures. This is followed by articles examining current concepts in hepatobiliary surgery (an unforgiving and often surgically challenging organ system) and portosystemic shunt surgery, for which the perfect surgical solution has yet to be identified. Surgery of the thorax is then discussed focusing on the practical steps and concepts that are important to consider when performing thoracic surgery. Next, current concepts in minimally invasive surgery of the abdomen and thorax are examined. Understanding of the principles of and indications for minimally invasive surgery is becoming increasingly important as more practices are incorporating minimally invasive surgery as part of their repertoire for soft tissue surgery. Wounds and their management remain a daily part of small animal practice and are discussed in two articles, one that discusses wound management and newer wound-healing products and the other article that examines equipment and techniques of negative pressure wound therapy. Finally, the soft tissue surgeon is more frequently encountering multidrug-resistant organisms and infections, and responsible perioperative antimicrobial usage is critically important in veterinary medicine, as it has been with human medicine. This topic is discussed in the final article.
It is our hope that the topics chosen are timely and that this issue will be useful for both the practitioner and specialist who performs small animal soft tissue surgery. We thank our surgical and clinical pharmacologic colleagues for their excellent contributions to this issue.

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