Preface

Urology: It’s Gold for a Reason!

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Editor

Urology is literally the “study of urine,” but usually infers the study of normal processes and diseases of the lower urinary tract in contrast with nephrology, which infers study of normal processes and diseases of the kidneys. In keeping with that definition, this issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice is dedicated to the management of disorders of the lower urinary tract. Dr Don Low, one of the fathers of veterinary nephrology and urology, with Drs Carl Osborne, Del Finco, and Ken Bovee, is credited with the following: “One should strive to practice 30 to 40 years of veterinary medicine and not 1 year 30 or 40 times.” In the spirit of that statement, this issue contains reviews and new information concerning diagnostic testing, pathophysiologic processes, and treatment strategies for dogs and cats with lower urinary tract diseases.

Lower urinary tract disorders occur commonly in dogs and cats and can often be frustrating either to treat or to prevent because of their recurrent nature. It is difficult to differentiate many diseases of the lower urinary tract as they present with similar clinical signs. Being familiar with common disorders helps to develop a rational diagnostic and therapeutic plan for your patient. The authors that have written in this issue are experts and provide a wealth of information concerning lower urinary tract disorders. This issue is roughly divided into 3 sections. The first section contains reviews of urinalysis (Ms Amanda Callens and Bartges), imaging (Dr Silke Hecht), and cystoscopy (Drs Megan Morgan and Marnin Forman). These detailed articles excellently set the stage for the second and third sections. The second section is concerned with specific disorders of the lower urinary tract, including congenital lower urinary tract disease (Bartges and Ms Amanda Callens), urinary tract infections (Dr Shelly Olin and Bartges), urolithiasis (Bartges and Ms Amanda Callens), micturition disorders (Dr Julie Byron), feline idiopathic cystitis (Drs Dru Forrester and Todd Towell), and lower urinary tract cancer (Drs Claire Cannon and Sara Allstadt). These outstanding articles contain reviews of the etiopathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatments for these common clinical
problems. The third section provides new or integrative treatment modalities for diseases of the lower urinary tract, including endourology (Dr Allyson Berent) and complementary and integrative therapies (Dr Donna Raditic). These highly informative articles provide additional information for managing patients with lower urinary tract disorders that owners should be informed of.

I thank the staff, especially Meredith Clinton, at Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice for inviting me to edit this issue. Many thanks to the authors, who generously took time out of their busy lives to provide valuable information related to the field of urology. Many of these authors are members of the American Society of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology (http://www.asvnu.org/), which is “a dedicated group of researchers and clinicians working to improve the quality of life of veterinary patients with kidney and urologic diseases by studying the structure, function, and ailments of the urinary system.” If you have a similar strong interest in the urinary system (and who doesn’t?!?), then you should consider membership. Thank-you to my family, friends, colleagues, and students who support me and inspire me to be the best that I can (“No man is a failure who has friends.” —Clarence, It’s a Wonderful Life). Particularly, thank-you to Dr Donna Raditic, who keeps me sane and drives me crazy at the same time (“Have I told you lately that I love you.” —Van Morrison, “Have I Told You Lately”). I hope that you find this issue useful in your practice and care of your patients.

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