Preface

We are both very excited to have had the opportunity to edit this issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice. There have been a number of publications over the years addressing concerns of the urinary tract, and our vision was to develop a concise and up-to-date reference that would be suitable for both the general practitioner and those working in more specialized areas of urology. This issue is the realization of that vision. We have tried to include practical information that can be implemented immediately as well as discussions of ongoing research in areas such as biofilm management and stem cell therapy. We have reached out to experts in the fields to present topics in urinary incontinence, inappropriate urinations, upper tract urolithiasis, nutritional management of urolithiasis, feline idiopathic cystitis, urinary tract infection, stem cell therapy, importance of urinalysis, urinary tract cytology, diagnostic imaging of the urinary tract, interventional therapies of the urinary tract, urologic oncology, and nutraceuticals for urinary tract use.

Perhaps the most humbling aspect of working on this issue was realizing how far we have come in the treatment of diseases of the urinary tract; however, at the same time, we understand that there is so much more to learn. Over the years, we have come to better understand the pathophysiology of urolith formation, yet we are still at the cusp of understanding how some stones are formed. We are starting to appreciate the genetics behind some urolith formation. We have developed ways to spare kidneys that would have been lost to ureteral obstructions. Relinquishment of dogs and cats for urinary incontinence and inappropriate urinations has decreased because there are now better management options. Diagnostic imaging of the urinary tract is multimodal, and the importance of urinalysis and cytologic examination has contributed to improvements in the management of developmental abnormalities, infection, and neoplasia. Owner recognition of the importance of diet and nutraceuticals in their own health has expanded into the veterinary profession so veterinarians must keep current on what is available for our companion animals.

We would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. They responded to a very short production deadline with good spirit and timeliness. It is an honor to have such colleagues. Their hard work has produced a
reference that is suitable for readers interested in providing clinical cases the best possible care as well as those interested in the more advanced aspects of veterinary urology. We would also like to acknowledge the staff at Elsevier, especially Meredith Madeira, for all of their assistance and for keeping us on schedule.

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