Preface

Decoding Forelimb Lameness: Acquiring the Techniques to Diagnose and Treat

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The ability to appropriately diagnose and treat many forelimb issues in the canine (and feline) has been a source of contention for many in veterinary medicine, from those early on in their career to those advanced. The main objective of this issue is to unlock the mystery. Albeit this an arduous task, a collection of veterinary specialists contributed in agreement with this vision. The collection of contributors is an international mix of the highest caliber.

This edition of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* has been developed to take the reader through a journey of the most and least common causes of forelimb lameness and pathology. The articles follow a systematic approach starting from a general examination to differentiation of orthopedic, neurologic, and oncologic causes. Next, each segment of the limb is explored from the digits to the scapula. Imaging of the forelimb is also reviewed within the individual articles, and advanced imaging of the forelimb (MRI) is covered.

One of the most challenging orthopedic conditions that clinicians face is congenital disease processes, in particular, elbow dysplasia. Elbow dysplasia is many times a damning condition to both the patient and the owner, and there is still so much that we do not know about the disease. Two articles have been devoted to this disease process (likely a whole book dedicated to elbow dysplasia could be written) as we try to undo some of the fallacies and mystery surrounding its diagnosis and treatment. In these articles, a full review of the disease process is evaluated, as well as an algorithm for treatment, and overall prognosis. In the more progressed patient, advanced procedures, such as the canine unicompartiment arthroplasty, sliding humeral osteotomy, proximal abduction ulnar osteotomy, and unicompartiment or total elbow replacement, may be indicated. Overview of these procedures (and more) is reviewed.
We want to thank each and every contributor in this issue for lending their expertise on this very important contribution to the veterinary profession and literature. We are also very appreciative of everyone’s sacrifice in collaborating for this issue, especially in the midst of the current COVID-19 global pandemic. We are very cognizant of the challenges this may have caused and the added stress. It is our desire that this edition is of great benefit to all who read this issue and gives the clinician added confidence and tools to be used on a daily basis. Enjoy and gain from the knowledge and insight of some of the most experienced clinicians!

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