Preface

It’s not Just Dentistry, It’s Dentistry and Oral Surgery!

When I completed my residency at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet) in 2000, I felt comfortable performing a number of dental and oral surgical diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in dogs and cats. They included oral examination, dental radiography, nerve blocks, dental cleaning, periodontal surgery, tooth extraction, endodontic treatment, restorations and prosthodontic crowns, oral tumor resections, jaw fracture repair, palate defect surgery, temporomandibular joint procedures, and regional lymph node and salivary gland resections. But the name of our hospital service at that time was still the “Dental Service.” In 2006, I reached out to Penn Vet’s leadership and proposed a name change. “Changing the service name by adding ‘... and Oral Surgery’ will demonstrate the actual work done in our service and provides more opportunities for the service personnel to be recognized as experts in their specialty.” From that time on, our service was known as the Dentistry and Oral Surgery Service!

I want to thank Elsevier for the opportunity to be the guest editor of this issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice. We have come a long way. Small animal dentistry issues of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice have been published in 1986, 1992 (feline), 1998 (canine), 2005, and 2013. Conditions impacting the health of the masticatory apparatus can affect many tissues and structures of the mouth, pharynx, upper neck, and surrounding areas. They include teeth, periodontal tissues, jaw bones, facial bones, oral mucosa, tongue, palate, lips, cheeks, palatine tonsils, temporomandibular joints, masticatory muscles, regional lymph nodes, salivary glands, and skin of the face and upper neck. When I was asked to serve as guest editor of this issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice, my wish that the topic be called “Dentistry and Oral Surgery” was granted without hesitation. Diplomates of the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) are recognized as leaders in their specialty, and those that excel in oral and
maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) may become Fellows of AVDC-OMFS. It is my hope that this collection of articles will help update all veterinary professionals so that they can offer the very best recommendations and latest treatment options for their patients.

I have chosen Drs Juriga and Startup to provide advice on how to design and equip a modern dentistry and oral surgery suite. Drs Mulherin and Bannon discuss the importance of communication, establishing a veterinary-client-patient relationship, and aspects of teledentistry. Mary Berg and Jeanette Eliason highlight the role veterinary technicians and dental hygienists play on a daily basis in our specialty field. Drs Villamizar-Martinez and Tsugawa cover routine and advanced diagnostic imaging to understand oral and maxillofacial anatomy and pathology. Drs Davis and Weese explain the oral microbiome in dogs and cats and critically discuss the use of antimicrobial therapy in dental and oral surgical patients. Dr Harvey offers an insight about the evidence of the relationship between periodontal infection and systemic and distant organ disease. Drs Goldschmidt and Hoyer report about the management of dental and oral developmental conditions in dogs and cats. Drs Anderson and Hennet share with us their views on the diagnosis and treatment of severe oral inflammatory conditions. Drs Hewitt and Coffman provide an update on endodontic, restorative, and prostodontic therapy. Drs Thatcher and Soukup discuss emerging topics of virtual surgical planning and 3D printing in dentistry and oromaxillofacial surgery. Dr Castejon-Gonzalez and I describe the management of oral and maxillofacial tumor patients from biopsy to surgical resection. Drs Snyder and Lothamer explain patient triage, first aid care, and the management of oral and maxillofacial trauma.

I thank these exceptional authors for sharing their experience, expertise, and contributions to this issue. The reader will greatly benefit from the wealth of knowledge that is expressed in these well-written articles.

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