Preface

Soft Tissue Surgery: Techniques and Topics for Every Practice and Experience Level

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Editor

Soft tissue surgery includes topics from every body system and techniques doctors must master and use daily in practice. During my almost 2 decades in veterinary surgery, the complexity of soft tissue cases always appealed to me. It is with these cases that a doctor must meld the skills of a thorough physical examination, diagnostic test interpretation, surgical procedure decision making, and postoperative care management. Clinicians of all experience levels (new graduates to board-certified clinicians) and working in every type of practice (general practice to universities) require updated information on these surgical subjects to ensure the best clinical practice; however, the volume of information published on a yearly basis can be overwhelming. This is why updated issues are so important. The last Soft Tissue issue in 2015 highlighted surgical concerns, including oncologic principles, hepatobiliary surgery, wound management, and minimally invasive procedures, but new data, instruments, and techniques are constantly being generated.

This issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice brings together experts in their fields on topics that will resonate with clinicians at all stages of their career, across species and practice types. Wound management and updates in gastrointestinal surgery are just two of the articles in this issue that illustrate significant updates that are far-reaching. Another relevant article concerns new concepts in sterilization that affect not only general practitioners but also specialists as well. This article delves into ovary-sparing procedures and the latest information regarding the effects of timing of sterilization for male and female patients. We also present information on open and minimally invasive surgical procedures, allowing the reader the flexibility to choose the best procedures for their clients as these procedures become more available.
Building on the foundation of the previous issue, we provide updates on hepatobiliary, endocrine, and oncologic subjects as well. Specifically, these articles describe and illustrate surgical procedures, compare outcomes wherever possible between surgical techniques, and help guide clinicians through discussions with owners. Risk factors for positive and negative outcomes for Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV) and new scoring systems for respiratory diseases are also reviewed. The authors hope that this issue will be pulled from the shelf often and will aid clinicians in their daily practice.

I want to thank every contributor for their tireless work for this issue as well as the continual effort of the Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice staff, especially Axel, who was a most dedicated partner in creating this issue. These clinicians and staff members dedicated their valuable time to help clinicians, students, pets, and clients, and I am aware of the sacrifices they made regarding family and free time. We hope this issue helps you and your patients for years to come. Enjoy!

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