Preface
From Prevention to Injection: Exploring the Breadth of Orthopedic Medicine

It is with great enthusiasm that we introduce this issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice on “Orthopedic Medicine.” Considerable advances in the realm of small animal orthopedics have transpired since the last Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice Orthopedics issue in 2005, including the establishment of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ACVSMR). The advent of this specialty has opened a variety of doors in enhancing patient care as well as in optimizing hospital efficiency. We have assimilated a breadth of topics written by some of the leaders in the ACVSMR field to present new and updated information in the evaluation, diagnosis, and medical treatment of small animal orthopedic mobility impairments. The articles in this issue systematically guide the reader through a patient evaluation: a comprehensive mobility assessment that transcends the standard orthopedic and neurologic examinations and diagnostic techniques inclusive of imaging and objective gait analysis. In addition, a breadth of common medical treatment strategies are reviewed, including evidence-based complementary and alternative medical techniques, nutritional considerations, joint injection therapies, physical rehabilitation, at-home therapeutic exercise, and extracorporeal shockwave therapy. Furthermore, there is a focus on prevention and maintenance of mobility to guide the reader through considerations and strategies ranging from conditioning a canine athlete to promotion of a healthy companion animal lifestyle.

While the focus of this issue is clinical, the final article discusses the myriad of benefits of orthopedic medicine and rehabilitation and strategies to implement this service in your practice. The article touches on the notion that an ACVSMR specialist as a
complement to an orthopedic surgeon has far-reaching benefits to a hospital that surpass the delivery of state-of-the-art patient care. We practice this paired ACVSMR and American College of Veterinary Surgery model at the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Colorado State University. We are of the passionate opinion that the patients, clients, students, house officers, clinicians, and hospital alike are better for it.

We are sincerely grateful to the authors for their contributions on a variety of topics. The content of the articles represents their personal clinical impressions, interpretation of the literature, and opinions. As editors, we offered input and suggestions toward the goal of updating and enhancing the readers’ clinical skills and knowledge base in this evolving field and are thankful for the opportunity to share more about our beloved specialty in the hopes of positively impacting the discipline of small animal orthopedics.

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