Small animal transfusion medicine has received much attention in the past 5 to 10 years largely due to transfusion medicine grants provided by the National Institutes of Health to a number of veterinary academicians. The recognition of veterinary transfusion medicine as an important area in both clinical medicine and research has generated, and will continue to generate, substantial new information about all aspects of veterinary transfusion medicine. Already reported in the veterinary transfusion medicine literature is new information on blood groups, transfusion medicine quality control in the collection, preparation, and preservation of blood components, and documentation as to the incidence and types of transfusion reactions in clinical settings. Several commercial blood banks have been established, providing the opportunity for all small animal patients to benefit from the acquired knowledge. An organization of individuals interested in transfusion medicine has been founded, and thanks to the foresight and commitment of a few dedicated individuals, veterinary transfusion medicine is now an integral part of the veterinary core curricula at most veterinary schools. This educational effort has led to an emphasis on specific therapy and as a result, there has been a shift from the singular use of whole blood to the use of specific component therapy. We feel fortunate to be part of this process and this issue of *The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* represents an effort to update practical information within this exciting field of veterinary medicine.

We thank Theresa Monturano, Pamela Vu, and the dedicated staff of W.B. Saunders for helping to bring this issue to completion. We especially want to thank our coauthors—recognizing differences of opinion as good signs as our science continues to grow—for sharing their time, expertise, and knowledge with us. We would like to thank the following individuals for their support and enthusiasm with the transfusion medicine programs from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Minnesota: Janice Parrow, Michael Henson, Jeffrey S. Klausner; and from the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia
Polytechnic Institute and State University: Carolyn Sink, Gregory Troy, Patricia Gahagan, and W. E. Monroe. We also want to recognize the salutary efforts of Patricia M. Kaufman of the Animal Blood Bank in Dixon, California, and the Virginia and Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations.

ANNEMARIE T. KRISTENSEN, DVM, PhD
BERNARD F. FELDMAN, DVM, PhD
Guest Editors

Novo Nordisk A/S
Hagedornsvej 1, HAB 3.22
DK-2820 Gentofte
Denmark

Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061