PREFACE

"We should offer the type of medical care that we would desire if we were the patient rather than the doctor."

The first part of this series (March 1996) pertaining to Disorders of the Feline Lower Urinary Tract contains information about their etiology and pathophysiology. Part II of this issue focuses on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of various types of feline lower urinary tract disease. The two-part series is intended to be used as integral companions.

A nineteenth-century philosopher, Theodor Billroth, penned this thought: "It is a most gratifying sign of the rapid progress of our time that our best textbooks become antiquated so quickly." It is our hope that the information contained in this issue will become rapidly antiquated as a result of continued research, ultimately leading to the prevention of various types of feline lower urinary tract disease. All of us may contribute in some way to this goal. To this end, may we ask that you reflect on this thought: "A fact merely marks the point where we have mutually agreed to let investigation cease." In fact, it takes a curious mind to make an analysis of what appears to be obvious. Let us treasure and nurture this precious response known as curiosity; it must not be blunted by the phenomenon known as practicality. Practicality is a virtue until it is used as an excuse for ignorance. In fact, curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning. We must be on guard to ensure that practicality does not snuff out the flame from the wick of knowledge.

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