PREFACE

Veterinary dentistry in the canine once consisted of either superficially scaling teeth or if the teeth were diseased, extracting them. Little was understood as to the processes involved that caused dental disease, and the systemic effects on the patient with dental disease were not understood.

Not only are canine patients living longer, but they are retaining their teeth with increasing expectations for health and function of these teeth. Successful modern veterinary medicine demands excellent care for all portions of the patient, including the oral cavity. The pet-owning public has recognized this with their own dentition and recognizes the need for their pets.

This is the third issue of The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice to be devoted to dentistry. The first issue, published in September 1986, was an overview of Veterinary Dentistry. The second issue, published in November 1992, was devoted to Feline Dentistry. This issue focuses on Canine Dentistry. I would like to thank the authors for their dedication in preparing this edition. I am sure the reader will agree that we have come a long way.

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