The practice of cardiology has evolved and been refined significantly over the last 20 years and has become one of the most exciting and challenging specialties in veterinary medicine. This process has occurred, in part, because of the incidence of cardiovascular disease in dogs and cats, the number of specialists dedicating their careers to the advancement of veterinary cardiology, advances in human cardiology, and the recognition of cardiology as an integral part of practice by veterinarians.

The goal of this issue was to bring together the work of several prominent veterinary cardiologists and internists involved in cardiovascular research and practice. Spectral and color flow Doppler echocardiography are reviewed. Holter monitoring, cardiac event recording, and advanced techniques in electrocardiography (heart rate variability and signal-averaged electrocardiography) also are reviewed. These techniques have great potential in the detection of intermittent arrhythmias and the diagnosis of occult cardiomyopathy. A report on the progress of defining familial canine cardiomyopathy is presented. Advances in the therapy of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the most common heart disease of cats, is reviewed. Other topics covered include the diagnosis and therapy of systemic hypertension, the use of taurine and l-carnitine supplementation in dogs with dilated cardiomyopathy, advances in antiarrhythmic therapy and critical care cardiology, and the diagnosis and therapy of feline heartworm disease.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of the contributors of this issue. Their work in the field of veterinary cardiology and their efforts in creating this issue has been exceptional. I would also like to thank John Vassallo of W. B. Saunders for his untiring work and guidance. I hope you enjoy this issue and the challenges and excitement of veterinary cardiology.

JOHN-KARL GOODWIN, DVM
Guest Editor

Veterinary Heart Institute
3601-V SW 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32607