Sara Sudo was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and raised in Clinton, Iowa with her sister Susan. She earned a Bachelor of Arts followed by a PhD in microbiology from the University of Minnesota. In 1970, she embarked on a research career in microbiology. Realizing that her mission in life was to focus on the care of animals, she returned to the University of Minnesota to earn the DVM in 1979. Following graduation, she entered private practice in Bettendorf, Iowa and then Hilton Head Island, South Carolina where she compassionately cared for the lives of exotic and companion animals, and wildlife. She balanced her role as a veterinarian with her role as a wife (husband Yosh), mother (daughter Emiko), and eventually as a grandmother (granddaughter Alexandria). She was admired and trusted by her peers as a highly skilled diagnostician. She was loved by her clients as a conscientious and compassionate advocate of the well-being of her patients.

Sara developed life-threatening progressive pulmonary fibrosis in 1992. She received a life-sparing lung transplant at the University of Minnesota Hospital in 1994. Unfortunately, problems with the lung transplant prevented her from
returning to private practice and the animals whose lives she had committed herself to champion.

Although Sara was constrained to breathe with the aid of supplementary oxygen and endure the side effects of immunosuppressive drugs, in 1995 she volunteered her remaining life’s work as a member of the Minnesota Urolith Center. Despite her disability, Sara brought our team enthusiasm, courage, respect for the welfare of all living beings, and a compassionate spirit of giving in behalf of those in need. She overcame her disability by using her limited but precious energy as a positive force to help others.

According to Webster, the word dedicate means: “to set apart for someone as a sign of honor and affection.” It is with heartfelt affection and appreciation that we dedicate this issue of The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice in honor of the memory of Sara, our courageous dear friend and esteemed colleague.

Sara taught us many lessons about the meaning of life. By example, she taught us that for our life’s work to be of true value, we must view it in context of how it will help others. In so doing she taught us how to live. And then . . . Sara taught us how to die. We learned from her that what we do for ourselves dies with us, but what we do for others lives on.

Carl A. Osborne, DVM, PhD

On behalf of Sara’s colleagues and friends at the Minnesota Urolith Center