PREFACE

Our Mission is to enhance the quality and quantity of life for all animals—great and small. We are committed to development of noninvasive methods that will consistently and safely prevent and cure diseases of the urinary system. Our Mission encompasses compassionate utilization of contemporary science and selection of clinical teams to provide care that we would select for ourselves. We are dedicated to the welfare of our patients first—and last.

MISSION STATEMENT
MINNESOTA UROLITH CENTER

The Foreword of a symposium on canine urolithiasis published in the March 1986 issue of: The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice stated in part:

"A nineteenth-century philosopher, Theodor Biroth, penned this thought: ‘It is a most gratifying sign of 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 rapidly become antiquated as a result of continued research, ultimately leading to the prevention of uroliths."

Since 1986, our hope has become a reality as evidenced by the growth of knowledge about the causes, consequences, detection, and innovative methods of nonsurgical dissolution and prevention of all forms of canine urolithiasis contained in this issue of The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice. As summarized in the article entitled "Medical Dissolution and Preven-
tion of Canine Uroliths,” canine urolithiasis is no longer solely the province of the surgeon.

The need for surgical removal of some types of canine uroliths, notably struvite, cystine, and salts of urate, is moving toward an antiquated status. However, as discussed in several articles contained in this issue, we still are in search of effective methods to dissolve calcium oxalate, calcium phosphate, and silica uroliths.

With your help, one day in the future, urolithiasis will become a disease of historical interest. With this mission in mind, please join us in our efforts to hasten the arrival of that day when countless lives will be spared suffering and death from urinary stones. We need your knowledge and wisdom in our efforts to leave “no stone unturned” as we strive to unearth and eliminate the causes of urolithiasis. Cornerstones are in place, but we are dependent on you to help us to continue to build the foundation that will result in development of safe, effective, and practical medical protocols that will dissolve and prevent all types of uroliths. We are dependent on you to refer patients to centers actively engaged in clinical investigations of urolithiasis.

With the goal of improving the quality of care that we can collectively provide for our patients, help us to be able to rewrite these articles in a future issue of *The Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* without the need to state, “The solutions to these stone problems are unknown; further studies are needed.” Help us to write the chapter that will symbolize urolithiasis as a historic event at the time of the medical stone age.

CARL A. OSBORNE, DVM, PHD
JODY P. LULICH, DVM, PHD
JOSEPH W. BARTGES, DVM, PHD
*Guest Editors*

Reference