PREFACE

Veterinary pediatrics continues to be a major activity in most veterinary practice worldwide, and more and more veterinarians are emerging with a need to obtain additional knowledge of pediatrics for puppies and kittens from birth to 6 months. This issue of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* reviews some of the most common and best recognized pediatric diseases and provides an update of selected aspects of some of the most recently recognized disorders in puppies and kittens. I am delighted to have collected authors who have worked in their respective topics for some time and with distinction. I have generally chosen the authors based on their knowledge and also, in part, because they are familiar to me.

I am pleased with the resourceful composition of the issue, encompassing discussions of the oldest and newest aspects of pediatric medicine. In addition to the authors, this work was ultimately generated and brought to you by the large, talented editorial staff of the W.B. Saunders Company. Specifically, Mr. John Vassallo, Senior Clinics Editor, is the one individual most responsible for the work proceeding from an idea to this issue. Once again, the format of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* has provided me with an ideal means for presenting the latest and most pertinent information about pediatric medicine. I hope that veterinarians will share my enthusiasm about this issue.

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