

## Preface

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After over 20 years of veterinary medical practice, I feel that the only way to share helpful insights about diagnosing and treating conditions in the oral cavity is with images. Owners are not usually the proper audience for sharing images that can contain graphic details; on the other hand, veterinarians can learn the proper procedure for treating individual conditions through these images and image series.

Dentistry requires the use of diverse medical devices and instruments, and dentists must be prepared to offer a wide range of options to meet the specific requirements comprising highly variable parameters and conditions with suitable equipment. They also need the proper expertise in dental procedures, which extends far beyond the normal range required for a general practitioner. Thus, dentistry in human medicine has become a medical discipline in its own right. In veterinary medi-

cine, however, such a development is unlikely, so appropriate dental treatment for cats and dogs will remain in the domain of veterinarians, who have to become specialized. This book does not aim to enable all veterinarians to treat all dental conditions, but rather to acquaint them with the problems and possible treatments. This in turn can permit veterinarians to offer the proper treatment or refer the client to a specialist; this approach can prevent years of suffering and pain and initiate a healing process.

Although dealing with fractures, bleeding and pain can be stressful for the veterinary dentist, it brightens the future for many animals.

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**Markus Eickhoff**

*Most importantly, this book is dedicated to  
my wife Sandra and my children Dana and Jared,  
who were so patient with me while I wrote this book.  
I am grateful to you.*