

Foreword

A new text in the field of feline medicine is always eagerly anticipated, especially in an era of rapidly increasing scientific knowledge and as more is learned about feline genetics and genetic diseases. An impressive group of authors have collaborated to present the latest information with the aim of improving feline health. This becomes more important as cats have longer lives and are increasingly selected to share the homes of people everywhere.

The Winn Feline Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded by The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) in 1968, and it has been funding feline health studies for over 35 years. As a nonprofit foundation, Winn has funded over \$3.3 million in direct research grants. Some of these projects have been basic science investigations; others have been aimed at immediate clinical impact. Examples of feline disease research supported by Winn Feline Foundation include studies that have investigated feline leukemia virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, feline infectious peritonitis, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and other heart disorders, polycystic kidney disease and other kidney disorders, mammary and other cancers, hyperthyroidism, asthma, and inflammatory bowel disease. The Foundation also supports research into behavioral disorders. The emergence of feline genomic

research in recent years is leading to an added focus in research at the molecular level. Grants are made to researchers at the leading research universities and institutions in the United States, and increasingly to researchers around the world.

Winn has been associated with some of the major breakthroughs in feline health. To name a few of these: identification of feline immunodeficiency virus, discovery of the link between taurine deficiency and dilated cardiomyopathy, development of methods to measure feline blood pressure, discovery of genes that cause several inherited diseases, and studies showing that early-age spays and neuters are safe.

Winn, in partnership with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), presents an annual Excellence in Feline Research Award and an annual scholarship award to an outstanding veterinary student with a special interest in feline medicine.

Winn welcomes this text as an important addition to the libraries of scientists, veterinarians, and veterinary students around the world.

Betty White

Winn Feline Foundation, Past President