

E D I T O R I A L

The JOURNAL of VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY

in the new millennium

We have launched just in time to sail into the new millennium with the second issue in hand. Your positive comments about volume one number one were very encouraging and a great stimulus for us to strive further with innovative research articles and interesting case reports. You have been kind and protected us from evil, we have not received any angry letters to the editor so far. But, please be frank and let us know what you wish to read in the future; we will certainly listen and try to oblige to the best of our ability.

Allow me a few thoughts and comments about oncoming problems in clinical cardiology. Several countries in Western Europe are considering the establishment of screening programmes for certain canine breeds, such as Boxers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and Irish Wolfhounds, for the early detection of their highly prevalent diseases, subaortic stenosis, mitral valve prolapse and idiopathic cardiomyopathy respectively. The breeders and their associations are looking for inexpensive, quick screening programmes with echocardiography, available through practitioners throughout their respective countries. We on the other hand, would like to see high quality work-ups with excellent documentation of mild lesions, allowing us very early detection of preclinical diseases. Are these two goals mutually achievable?

Obviously, there are not enough boarded cardiologist or experienced echocardiographers to perform these exams without the clients having to travel some distance to consult with them at their practices. What can we do to quickly train new young cardiologists in order to fill the ranks? Where are the "conforming" residency training programmes at European universities? Should experienced practitioners be certified in echocardiography, and if so, by which "licensing board"? Which association could do the training and certification of such colleagues who are interested in learning new skills and who would find the time to attend training courses? Many questions about which I most certainly have an opinion, but not necessarily the answer. Any comments from out there in cyberspace?

Can an editor avoid a joke, even a feeble one, about the millennium bug? Let me just say this: I hope "the bug" doesn't invade the chip controlling the hardware of your echo machines and PC's, preventing you from communicating with us on the future course we plan to take this journal on together. Enjoy the reading !

Berne, November 1999

Christophe W. Lombard
Scientific Editor