Pituitaries immunostained with anti-ACTH 1-24 (1:2,000) from dogs with hyperadrenocorticism due to pars distalis microadenoma (top) and pars intermedia neoplasia (bottom). There is persistence of immunopositivity within the pars intermedia in both instances, with loss of staining of nontumorous pars distalis.
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Preface

In 1986 the Utrecht State University celebrated its 350th anniversary and at the same time the Utrecht University Small Animal Clinic commemorated its establishment 75 years ago as a separate department for research and teaching on diseases of companion animals. In conjunction with these celebrations, a meeting concerning 'Regulatory peptides and diseases of companion animals' was held. The papers that
concentrated on regulatory peptides are presented in this volume. In western society several animal species are of benefit to man in his search for companionship. Most owners realize that keeping companion animals is a two-sided relationship and they care for their pets in a very considerate way. This interest in the well-being of pets has contributed to the growth of veterinary knowledge of the natural diseases of these animals. For the dog and the cat the enormous proliferation of knowledge in the past two decades has induced rapidly expanding specialization in several areas.

Many disorders of companion animals have been described in sufficient depth to allow fruitful exchanges with scientists working in the basic sciences and in human medicine. This is especially true for endocrine diseases, where the progress of the past two decades was accomplished in close cooperation with human endocrinologists. The meeting in September 1986 was organized to bring together physicians, medical biologists and veterinarians to foster an integrated approach to diseases in which regulatory peptides play a role. The idea that both human medicine and veterinary medicine may benefit from this approach was strongly reinforced.

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Preface VIII

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Utrecht, February 1987 A. Rijnberk
Ti.B. van Wimersma Greidanus