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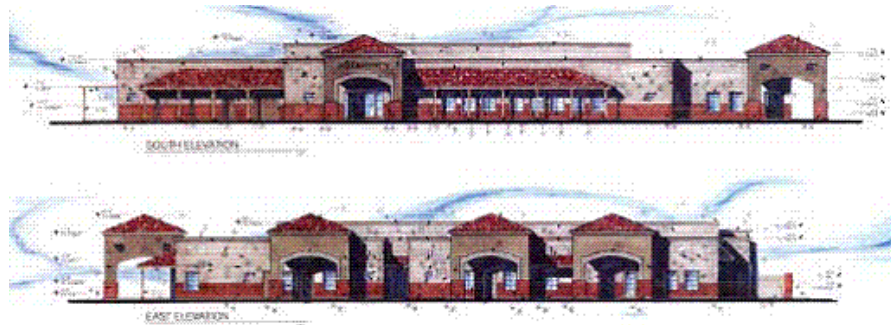
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SPECIALISTS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the age of rapidly expanding knowledge and technology, the board-certified veterinary specialist offers veterinarians the ability to provide their patients with the best veterinary medicine possible while allowing the referring veterinarian to maintain the doctor/client/patient relationship.

The explosion of medical information has resulted in many advances in veterinary medicine. Diagnostic testing has become more sophisticated, and special medical equipment, such as CT scanners and computed radiography, has become more complex and costly. Because of these concerns, it has become increasingly difficult for primary care veterinary practices to justify the greatly increased cost of specialized equipment and the years of advanced training in each specialty necessary to provide the entire range of veterinary care.

Therefore, veterinarians sometimes find it beneficial to refer certain cases to a specialist for added expertise or to provide specialized diagnostics or treatments. When this is done properly, the doctor/client relationship is preserved while the services available to the patient are greatly expanded. Referrals are recommended when a practice does not have the advanced equipment or specialized training needed for a complex medical or surgical case. More



commonly, referrals result from one veterinarian who wishes to have a second opinion by a veterinarian with specialized equipment or training in a very specific discipline. AVS provides comprehensive specialty care while maintaining a close bond with referring veterinarians, serving as an extension of veterinary practices throughout the community.

Similar to physicians, veterinarians realize that it is impossible to be an expert in all facets of veterinary medicine. Veterinarians decide to practice on small animals (dogs and cats) versus large animals (horses) in veterinary school. Further refinements have led to the creation of veterinary specialties. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed a system of specialty colleges, and board-certified specialists are those individual veterinarians who have been certified by an AVMA specialty college.

A board-certified veterinary specialist has completed extensive post-graduate study and training, has demonstrated clinical competency under close supervision, and has passed a comprehensive examination in the specialty. Veterinarians who complete the credentials process and pass the board examinations become “Diplomates” of their specialty college. These specialists are recognized by certain initials following their names that associate them with their discipline, and they are allowed by the AVMA to use the word “specialist.” Many of these specialists are found in veterinary colleges, but in recent years, and to the benefit of the public, more and more of them have entered private practice.

At the present time there are 20 specialty colleges or boards recognized by the AVMA, ranging from anesthesia to zoological medicine. At Arizona Veterinary Specialists (AVS), the largest veterinary specialty hospital in Arizona, fourteen board-certified specialists representing ten of these different veterinary specialties are providing care for patients referred for comprehensive treatment.



The specialty practices at AVS, the “Leaders in Specialty Care”, include anesthesiology, emergency and critical care, dentistry, dermatology, radiology, internal medicine, oncology, ophthalmology, radiation oncology, and surgery.

The specialties acknowledged by the American Veterinary Medical Association include:

AVMA recognized specialty organizations and date recognized
American Board of Veterinary Practitioners 1978
American Board of Veterinary Toxicology 1967
American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine 1957
American College of Poultry Veterinarians 1991
American College of Theriogenologists 1971
American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists 1975
American College of Veterinary Behaviorists 1993
American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology 1990
American College of Veterinary Dermatology 1982
American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care 1989
American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine 1972
Specialty of Cardiology
Specialty of Large Animal Internal Medicine
Specialty of Neurology
Specialty of Oncology
Specialty of Small Animal Internal Medicine
American College of Veterinary Microbiologists 1966
American College of Veterinary Nutrition 1988
American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists 1971
American College of Veterinary Pathologists 1951
Veterinary Anatomic Pathology
Veterinary Clinical Pathology
American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine 1978 (was American Board of Veterinary Public Health 1951)
Specialty in Epidemiology
American College of Veterinary Radiology 1962
Specialty in Radiation Oncology 1994
American College of Veterinary Surgeons 1967
American College of Zoological Medicine 1983
American Veterinary Dental College 1988