What online resources can tell me more about veterinary specialty medicine?

American College of Veterinary Surgeons
www.acvs.org

The American College of Veterinary Surgeons sets the standards for veterinary surgery residency training and acts as the agency by which veterinarians are certified as specialists in surgery.

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
www.acvim.org

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) is the international certifying organization for veterinary specialists in cardiology, internal medicine, neurology, and oncology.

Introduction to Specialty Medicine

We provide comprehensive care to you and your pet through the integration of science, compassion, and integrity.

CAMPBELL
907 Dell Avenue
Phone: (408) 343-7243
Fax: (408) 385-3680

CONCORD
1410 Monument Boulevard
Phone: (925) 627-7243
Fax: (925) 771-1181

DUBLIN
7121 Amador Plaza Road
Phone: (925) 574-7243
Fax: (925) 771-3043

REDWOOD CITY
934 Charter Street
Phone: (650) 417-7243
Fax: (650) 344-4714

www.sagecenters.com
What is a veterinary specialist?

In veterinary medicine, as in human medicine, some doctors decide to continue their education by specializing in an area of interest. Ultimately, these doctors may earn the designation of “board-certified specialist” by completing a one- to two-year internship, followed by a three-year residency program. These residency programs require veterinarians to meet specific training and caseload requirements, perform research in their specialty field, and have that research published.

In addition to residency requirements, the doctor must pass a set of rigorous examinations administered by the board of the specialty college. Only then does the veterinarian earn the academic title of “Veterinary Diplomate” and become a board-certified veterinary specialist. Our staff at SAGE includes doctors who are specialists in cardiology, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, surgery, and emergency/critical care.

Veterinary specialists might be needed when diagnosing or treating your pet’s health problem requires specialized equipment and/or expertise. Our specialists’ dedication to their chosen field of medicine allows them to provide advanced surgical and medical care for your pet.

What is the role of a board-certified specialist in my pet’s care?

The role of the specialist is to treat and/or diagnose problems and illnesses requiring advanced care and procedures. Some conditions can be resolved completely, at which point your pet will no longer require a specialist, while others may require periodic monitoring or testing. The doctor will let you know what you might expect.

It’s common for SAGE veterinarians from different specialties to collaborate on a patient’s care. This team-based approach to medicine allows our doctors to provide a treatment plan tailor-made to your pet’s individual situation.

If you have been referred to SAGE by your family veterinarian, our doctors will work closely with both you and your primary doctor throughout the process. Your doctor will provide us with all pertinent information regarding your pet’s history and current medical problem, typically faxing or e-mailing medical records to us prior to your appointment. Our specialists will then keep you and your family veterinarian informed of your pet’s progress after both your initial consultation and any subsequent recheck appointments.

What should I expect from my consultation with a board-certified specialist?

If this is your first time visiting SAGE, our client service coordinators will have you fill out an intake form upon your arrival.

Our specialist will review any of your pet’s previous records, as well as any x-rays or lab results sent to us prior to your appointment. When you bring your pet in for the consultation, you will be asked to provide a thorough history of your pet’s problem. Your consulting specialist will also perform a physical examination on your pet.

After reviewing all of this information, your specialist will discuss options and treatment plans with you, which could involve further diagnostic tests, a surgical recommendation, or detailed home-care instructions. After you approve a treatment plan, your doctor will create a detailed financial estimate for your pet’s care.

Your specialist can sometimes perform diagnostic tests or procedures the day of your consultation, so in general we request that you fast your pet for the appointment. Diabetic patients, however, should never be fasted. Please call us before your consultation if you have any questions about withholding food from your pet.