



Our neurologists have access to some of the most advanced diagnostics tools available. Each SAGE hospital contains a CT scanner for imaging patients. SAGE has also partnered with AnimalScan to bring on-site MRI services to our Campbell and Redwood City facilities.

MRI is considered the gold-standard diagnostic test for problems of the brain and spine. Some of the most common conditions diagnosed with MRI include disc ruptures, brain and spinal cord tumors, and congenital malformations of the brain and spinal cord. MRI is also a very important component of diagnosing inflammatory disease of the brain and spinal cord, such as encephalitis or meningitis.

While there are manufacturers who create veterinary specific imaging machines, AnimalScan's MRI is high-field human-grade equipment. Benefits of a high-field scanner include superior image quality and a larger field of view. The stronger signal also makes for better images of small patients. The combination of these factors results in more precise diagnoses and better patient care.

To ensure they remain still while being scanned, patients are placed under anesthesia for MRI. This requires that food be withheld from patients prior to their appointment. Scans typically take 30-60 minutes, occasionally longer, depending on the region(s) being scanned. Once the procedure is complete, your pet will need about 20-30 minutes to recover before being able to return home. Doctors will review the imaging results and discuss their findings with you.

*We provide comprehensive specialized care for your pet through the integration of science and compassion.*

### **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



# SAGE

CENTERS FOR  
VETERINARY SPECIALTY  
AND EMERGENCY CARE

[www.sagecenters.com](http://www.sagecenters.com)



# Neurology

**A**t SAGE, we are fortunate to have a team of skilled and knowledgeable neurologists. These doctors have dedicated themselves to learning all they can about conditions of the brain, spine, and nervous system.



*During your consultation, the neurologist will speak with you about your pet's condition and review any records provided by your family veterinarian. If your pet is being seen for a seizure disorder, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire about your pet's condition, detailing your pet's seizure history, behavior, and any current or previous medications your pet has taken.*

*Your neurologist will discuss all of the diagnostics and treatments s/he feels is appropriate for your pet's condition at your appointment. These might be performed same day or scheduled for another time.*

A veterinary neurologist is a veterinarian who has undergone years of additional study to diagnose and treat conditions pertaining to the brain, spinal cord, muscles, and nerves of animals. The board-certified neurologists at SAGE have all completed a multi-year residency in their field, performed research in the field of neurology, and passed a set of rigorous exams to earn that title. This gives them the skills and expertise needed to treat the most complex of conditions. Common reasons that a consultation with a neurologist may be recommended for your pet include, but are not limited to:

- Difficulty using their legs (paralysis and/or weakness)
- Spinal pain
- Abnormal gait
- Seizures
- Head tilt
- Balance issues
- Tremors

Detailed neurological exams are performed for patients with suspected neurological issues, helping the doctor determine if and where the nervous system is affected. Doctors might also recommend specialized tests. Possible tests include magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT scan), x-ray, spinal fluid analysis (spinal tap), electrodiagnostics, or biopsy.

As with humans, problems affecting a dog or cat's brain or spine are often complex. Proper treatment plans are needed to improve symptoms and/or cure the underlying disease.

Certain neurological problems may come on suddenly, while others may appear more slowly. Some neurological conditions are more prevalent among specific breeds. Dachshunds, for example, have long backs and experience intervertebral disc disease at higher rates than other breeds. Wobbler's disease is a spinal condition that causes a swaying or "wobbly" gait, and is typically found in young, giant breed dogs such as Great Danes or mastiffs.

Whether your pet has had a seizure or is currently having difficulty walking, we understand that your pet's neurological issues can seem scary or leave you feeling helpless. Our doctors will listen to your concerns and share with you your pet's available treatment options. If you have been referred to SAGE by your primary veterinarian, our specialist will keep your family veterinarian informed of your pet's progress after your initial consultation and any subsequent recheck appointments.

Depending on your pet's condition, your neurologist may recommend medical management or surgery. Pain medications, antibiotics, steroids, anti-seizure medications and/or immunosuppressant drugs may be prescribed.

Unlike in human neurology, where most doctors focus on medical management, veterinary neurologists are also highly-skilled in performing surgery to address the problems they diagnose. Some of our doctors have also received the Advanced Training in Neurosurgery Certificate. Neurosurgical procedures available at SAGE include:

- Surgery for intervertebral disc disease
- Tumor removal from the brain and spine
- Corrective surgery for Chiari malformation (commonly seen in some small breed dogs)
- Spinal fracture repair

State-of-the-art surgical suites provide all of the tools and conditions SAGE neurologists need to perform these intricate procedures. SAGE doctors are supported during surgery by skilled veterinary technicians.

Following surgery, patients are transferred to our 24-hour critical care unit (CCU) to recover, where they receive continuous support and monitoring. Our dedicated critical care staff is responsible for providing IV fluids, medication, and nutrition to our hospitalized patients as needed, as well as plenty of affection. These efforts improve the quality of care your pet receives during this crucial time, bettering the chances for a positive outcome.



*SAGE hospitals contain state-of-the-art treatment areas and operating rooms for patients requiring neurosurgery*