

# WHAT IS A BOARDED VETERINARY SPECIALIST?



***It is important to realize that many surgeons and dentists are NOT board certified specialists -*** they are general practice veterinarians who limit their practice to surgery and dentistry. A board certified veterinary specialist (ie: surgeon, dentist, oncologist; internist; cardiologist; radiologist). Board certified specialists have gone through additional training above and beyond veterinary school. These doctors have usually completed a 13-month internship program post graduation followed by 3-5 years of additional specialized residency training. Both internships and residency programs are highly competitive with only limited positions available per year. When researching veterinary care and a veterinarian's biography, specialists will also have additional credentials behind their name besides DVM [VMD] including but not limited to: ACVS; ACVD; ACVIM; or ACVR.

Board certified specialists are no-doubt the “best in their field” of expertise and considered the gold standard of care. Because we live in the Denver Metro area, we are lucky enough to have an abundance of veterinary specialists along the front range to service pets who have complex oncologic, medical, surgical, or dental needs. It is ***always*** a general recommendation to have any complex [oral] surgical procedures (ie: large or invasive tumors; surgery of the liver, pancreas, adrenal & parathyroid glands, perineal surgery; jaw, maxillary, or mandibular fractures; complicated extractions, retained roots) performed by a board-certified surgeon or dentist. If interested in visiting a veterinary specialist, please consult with your primary veterinarian.

Veterinary consultations and diagnostics should be performed ***PRIOR*** to the day of surgery. Any pending post-op diagnostics, consultation about diagnosis, rechecks (above and beyond incisional care), or any additional medical conditions discovered during surgery should be performed by your primary veterinarian and will not be accommodated by the surgery service.

For more information about Board Certified Veterinary Specialties please visit:

- ❖ [Veterinary Specialities](#) written by the AVMA
- ❖ What is a [Veterinary Specialist?](#) written by vetspecialists.com