

# Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Service

825 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, NY 14623

Phone: (585) 424-1277 • Fax: (585) 424-1335

www.vetspecialistsofrochester.com

## What is VSES?

Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Service (VSES) is a 24-hour emergency care and specialty practice. Emergency veterinarians and board-certified veterinary specialists make up its staff.

## What are veterinary specialists?

Like human doctors, some veterinarians choose to specialize in one particular type of medicine. A board-certified veterinary specialist has advanced training in a specific discipline of veterinary medicine. A specialty organization accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has evaluated and recognized each veterinary specialist's knowledge and skills.



Similar to their human medical counterparts, board-certified veterinary specialists must complete undergraduate training, four years of veterinary school, an internship, and residency in their specialized field. This is three to five more years of advanced preparation than a general practice veterinarian undergoes. A board-certified veterinary specialist must also pass rigorous examinations to achieve certification.



## Why use a veterinary specialist?

Veterinary specialists are valuable resources in treating your pet. Your general practice veterinarian has excellent training in veterinary medicine and acts as a family practice physician to your pet. Just as with human medicine, there are occasions when your veterinarian might want assistance or suggest a referral to a specialist who can better meet your pet's needs. Your veterinarian and the veterinary specialist work together as a team to treat your pet.

In general, specialists see cases requiring advanced training, expertise, skill, or equipment for diagnosis. Also, they perform the most up-to-date surgical or medical treatments, such as orthopedic surgery; complicated abdominal, thoracic, or cancer surgery; cataract surgery; ultrasound; chemotherapy; endoscopy; and MRI/CT scans.

## When do I see a veterinary specialist?

General practitioners recognize the need for specialization and refer clients for difficult and unusual cases. Animals are also referred when the veterinarian realizes the diagnosis and/or treatment requires tools and experience that are not generally available.

Veterinary specialists act as an extension of the general practitioners' practice by allowing them to increase the scope of their practice and what they offer their clients/patients. Specialization in veterinary medicine allows pets access to advanced care and treatments. Usually, your veterinarian will make a recommendation to see a specialist. However, you can also request to see a specialist if you have concerns regarding your pet's health. We encourage you to discuss options with your family veterinarian.



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## Emergency Veterinarians

Sarah Brawdy, DVM

Kim Dodge, DVM

Simon Kirk, DVM, Co-Director

Johnny Lamb, DVM

Thomas Linnenbrink, DVM

Joseph Wilder, DVM, Diplomate ABVP

## Veterinary Specialists

### Cardiology

Anna Gelzer, DMV, Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology)

### Critical Care

Kristen Woosley, DVM, Diplomate ACVECC

### Internal Medicine

Michael Koch, VMD, Diplomate ACVIM

Consultant: Veterinary Laboratory of Rochester

### Ophthalmology

Kent Burgess, PhD, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO,  
Co-Director

### Radiology

Jennifer Bouma, VMD, Diplomate ACVR

### Surgery

Justin Greco, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Lauren May, VMD, Diplomate ACVS

Stephen Mehler, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

### Consultation Services

Neurology: Curtis Dewey, DVM, DACVS, DACVIM (Neurology)

