



General Information for Clients of the Surgery Service of The Animal Medical Center

What is a veterinary specialist?

A board certified veterinary surgeon that has completed a minimum of 12 years of college and postgraduate training. The Animal Medical Center has numerous board certified surgery specialists on staff. Each has graduated from a four-year veterinary college and has gone on to complete at least an additional four years of training in internship and residency programs, and has met specific training and caseload requirements, performed research and had their research published. To become board certified, these candidates must also pass rigorous testing requirements.

What role does my regular veterinarian play?

The Animal Care Team is made up of the owner (client), the primary care veterinarian (your regular veterinarian) and the ACVS (American College of Veterinary Surgeons) accredited specialist (Diplomate). While your pets' general health maintenance, including vaccinations and preventative care are best managed by your regular veterinarian, rapid advances in the veterinary profession can make it difficult to remain current with recent developments in techniques and technologies required to manage some of today's complex surgical problems without advanced training. Possessing the training, expertise and equipment to perform the most demanding procedures, the ACVS Diplomate can help the primary care veterinarian provide the best possible care for your pet.

Once a referral for consultation is made, our surgical team will provide state-of-the-art surgical care. As part of the healthcare team, we will keep your primary care veterinarian informed of your pet's progress throughout the specialized care. Your primary care veterinarian may also perform some of your pet's follow-up care; your AMC surgeon and your primary care veterinarian will discuss this to ensure the best of care for your pet. This continuity between surgical specialist and primary care veterinarian ensures the best possible outcome for the patient.

We will communicate with your veterinarian following your surgical consultation daily via fax and telephone during your pet's hospitalization. A final letter will be sent at the time of discharge summarizing your pet's case history.

Why do I need an appointment with a specialist if I already know my pet needs surgery?

Our goal is to communicate with you and make the best decisions for you and your pet regarding surgery. This involves detailed conversations regarding anticipated prognosis explained thoroughly to you and answering all your questions prior to surgery.

What is a “team appointment?”

Our Surgery Service is made up of several teams that consist of an ACVS specialist, 1-2 surgery residents, 1-2 interns and a number of licensed veterinary technicians. These teams are organized to provide the best possible care for your pet. Even though you may have an appointment with a board certified surgery specialist, your consultation may be initiated by an intern or surgery resident who is part of our surgery team. Likewise, one of the licensed veterinary technicians may begin the appointment by obtaining a thorough history, assist in sending your pet home and will be involved in telephone communications with you.

How do I schedule surgery for my pet?

Once you have had an appointment with our surgery team and it is decided that your pet will have surgery, you can make the surgery appointment with one of our surgical technicians. The surgery can often be performed as soon as the next day, but may be scheduled for a future date. The morning of surgery, doctors on our team will likely not be available for discussion, so in the days prior to surgery, technicians and doctors on our surgical team can be reached by telephone or e-mail to address any remaining questions or concerns that you may have.

On behalf of the AMC Surgery Service and the entire staff of The Animal Medical Center, thank you for choosing The AMC!