



**Dedicated to bringing the best in
Anesthesia and Pain Management
services to veterinary patients
throughout the Colorado Front Range**

Veterinary Anesthesia is a specialty, similar to surgery, internal medicine, and radiology. While all veterinary practices anesthetize patients, many clients expect, and some patients require specialized anesthetic care and monitoring to reduce the inherent risks associated with anesthesia. Universities and referral hospitals have recognized the value of board certified anesthesiologists, now your hospital can offer the same level of anesthesia and pain management service to your clients.

For Information or Appointments Contact:

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Available Services

Anesthetic Case Management

Anesthetic case management includes a meeting with the client (if desired), a comprehensive preanesthetic patient physical examination, preanesthetic drug selection and administration, intravenous catheterization, and induction-maintenance of anesthesia. Routine monitoring usually consists of arterial blood pressure monitoring, ECG, pulse oximetry, capnography, and body temperature. Additional monitoring is available when necessary. Assisted recovery and continued intensive patient monitoring and supportive care are also available.

How it works: Anesthetic case management can be requested for individual patients, or for periods of time such as a half or whole day. Since individualized patient care requires unique anesthetic drug and monitoring protocols, please call for an estimate of prices and to make an appointment.

Pain Management

Acute, chronic, and perioperative pain management consultation are available through Veterinary Specialist Services. Since pain is usually a sign of an underlying condition, it is strongly suggested that patients receive a thorough evaluation for underlying medical or surgical conditions prior to requesting a consultation. Pain therapies which are available include pharmacological and acupuncture treatments.

How it works: Please call for an estimate of prices and to make an appointment.

Veterinarian and Staff Training

All aspects of veterinary medicine are advancing at a pace that can be overwhelming. The easiest and most economical way to deliver new information is through large lectures at large meetings. Unfortunately, this teaching method often results in poor retention of information and may leave many critical questions unanswered.

A better way to train veterinarians and staff is have a mixture of didactic and hands-on training within the hospital environment in which they work. This utilizes the specific equipment and situations encountered daily. Requests can be made to have specific topics or needs addressed resulting in unique and individualized training experiences. Follow-up consultation is included to make sure all questions are answered and your staff is confident in their newly acquired skills.

Monitoring Rounds

Monitoring is an especially important aspect of anesthetic risk management. Many practices are spending significant amounts of money upgrading monitoring capabilities. However, some find that improved monitoring capabilities reveal areas of need in troubleshooting, interpretation, and treatment of abnormalities. Unfortunately, monitor

salespersons usually cannot provide advice about patient care beyond how to apply and set up their particular monitor. Hands on training of staff by an anesthesiologist with emphasis on data interpretation and treatments will greatly enhance the value of your monitoring investment.

Protocol Development and Optimization

Many veterinarians are reluctant to change anesthetic practices because of the fear of the consequences of making errors with unfamiliar drugs or techniques. Unfortunately, this reluctance often is a barrier to adoption of the most current anesthetic practices. Hands on training under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist will allow practices to explore changes to their current protocols, while providing explanations of the differences between drugs and techniques.

Other Training Opportunities

In addition to monitoring and protocol development, training topics can include pharmacology, anesthetic machine testing and function, supportive care techniques, and many other skills necessary to deliver safe and effective anesthesia and pain management.

How it works: Since each training session is individualized to the practice's needs, please call for pricing. Sessions can be scheduled during weekends, evenings, mornings, throughout the day, or a combination of these times to maximize learning while minimizing

disruption to daily practice activities. Remember, follow-up consultation is included to make sure all questions are answered and your staff is confident in their newly acquired skills.

About Veterinary Specialist Services

The underlying philosophy of Veterinary Specialist Services is, "Always do your best in the best interest of the patient."

This philosophy has its roots in the observation that despite the founding of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists over 30 years ago, anesthetic care in practice has not kept pace with the advances in surgery, medicine and other specialty areas. This is reflected in the fact that despite the availability of similar drugs, monitoring techniques, and perioperative care, anesthetic mortality is approximately 10-100 times higher in veterinary patients than for humans. While differences exist between species that may never allow for the same morbidity and mortality rates, striving to improve veterinary anesthetic care and reducing morbidity and mortality is an achievable goal.

The relative inaccessibility of boarded veterinary anesthesiologists to private practices has been one impediment to the improvement of anesthetic care in veterinary medicine. While commonplace in academic teaching hospitals, until recently

anesthesiologists have not been readily available in the private practice environment.

Veterinary Specialist Services was founded by Kurt Grimm, DVM, MS, PhD, to help veterinarians provide the best in anesthetic care and pain management. Dr. Grimm is double boarded in Veterinary Anesthesiology and Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology and brings his experience as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management at the University of Illinois into your practice. Dr. Grimm, along with Dr. William Tranquilli, was a founding member of the University of Illinois' Veterinary Interdisciplinary Pain Service and has co-authored the popular handbook *Pain Management for the Small Animal Practitioner* and is co-editor of the new, 4th Edition of *Lumb and Jones' Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia*.

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