

# WHAT'S IN A TITLE?



## What is a specialist?

A specialist is a veterinarian who has completed veterinary school, an internship, and a residency in their specialized area. All specialties require extensive examinations, and most require publications accepted into peer-reviewed journals. Terms that denote a specialist include Board-Certified, Specialist, Diplomate, and specialty names such as Criticalist, Surgeon, Cardiologist, Neurologist, Oncologist, Radiologist, etc.

## What is an internship / intern?

An internship is a one-year position that doctors apply for after veterinary school. This is usually a program where veterinarians (interns) are exposed to multiple different specialists / specialties.

## What is a residency / resident?

Interns may decide to either go to general practice or pursue further specialized training in a specialty. Interns who want to become specialized will then apply for residencies. Residencies range from two years to five years in length, depending on the program and specialty. Residencies require complete devotion and are life-consuming for these candidates. ACCESS has a three-year residency program in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care.

## What is "practice limited to...?"

Doctors who have completed their residencies but have not completed all of the required steps to become board-certified are required to have "practice limited to..." in their titles. You may see these doctors also referred to as 'residency trained' or 'board eligible'.

## What is a 'fellow'?

A fellow is a doctor who has completed their residency but who chooses additional training. A fellowship is optional and is not required to practice medicine, but is necessary for training in a sub-specialty. (*ACCESS does not does not employ any 'fellows' at this time.*)

## What is a Veterinary Nurse?

A veterinary nurse is a person who has passed state and national board exams, and licensed to practice by the state. They are trained to help care for, and treat critically injured or sick patients, assist in surgeries, procedures, etc.



## What do these abbreviations mean?\*

- BVSc – Bachelor of Veterinary Science
- BVMS – Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
- DVM – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- VMD – Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris (*equivalent to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*)
- VTS – Veterinary Technician Specialist
- RVT – Registered Veterinary Technician

You may see Board-Certified doctors having additional credentials such as:

- DACVECC – Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care
- DACVIM – Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- DACVS – Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

*\*Different schools denote a veterinarian's degree in different ways.*

To find out more, please don't hesitate to ask as your comfort and confidence is important to us. Don't be shy – we're here for you and your pet.



# ACCESS

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