

The American Board of Veterinary Specialties Effective October 15, 2018

A veterinarian may represent himself or herself as a specialist only if he or she is board certified. A veterinarian shall restrict claims for specialization to those disciplines for which there is a specialty board approved by a certifying agency recognized by the Board. A veterinarian may not use the term specialist for an area of practice for which there is not recognized certification. A diplomate of any certifying organization recognized by the Board may claim only a specialty for the class of animals in which he or she specializes, and not for medical specialties in which he or she is not board-certified. The Board shall annually, before January 1st, provide a list of approved certifying agencies for the next full calendar year.

Below is a list of veterinary specialties recognized by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, with very simple descriptions of what these specialists do.

Anesthesia: veterinarians who focus on making sure animals feel less or no pain associated with veterinary procedures

Animal Welfare: veterinarians with specialized training and experience in animal welfare

Behavior: veterinarians with additional training in animal behavior

Dentistry: veterinarians who perform procedures on animals' teeth

Dermatology: veterinarians who study diseases and conditions of the skin

Emergency and Critical Care: the "ER docs" and intensive care specialists

Internal Medicine, which includes specialties in

- Cardiology: the study of diseases and conditions of the heart and circulatory system
- Neurology: the study of diseases of the brain, spinal cord and other parts of the nervous system
- Oncology: the study of tumors and cancer

Laboratory Animal Medicine: veterinarians working in research or in practice, making sure that laboratory animal species (rabbits, rats, mice, etc.) receive proper care.

Microbiology: veterinarians who study viruses, bacteria, fungi, etc.

Nutrition: veterinarians working to make sure that animals' diets meet their body's needs for nutrients

Ophthalmology: veterinarians studying diseases and conditions of the eye

Pathology: veterinarians studying disease in animals

Pharmacology: veterinarians studying how medications/drugs affect animals

Poultry Veterinarians: veterinarians who work with chickens, turkeys and/or ducks, usually in food production settings

Preventive Medicine: veterinarians who study how diseases are spread and how they can be prevented

Radiology: veterinarians who focus on the study of x-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography (often called CAT scans), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and other imaging procedures that allow us to see "inside" an animal's body

Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation: veterinarians who focus on returning animals to normal function after injury, lameness, illness or surgery

Surgery: veterinarians who specialize in performing surgery. A certified surgeon will be certified in either small animal surgery or large animal surgery. Within these groups, many surgeons will focus their work in one of these two subcategories but are not limited to them:

- Orthopedics: these surgeons focus on bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, etc. of the body's skeletal system
- Soft Tissue surgery: these surgeons focus more on the internal organs and non-bone tissues of the body

Theriogenology: *veterinarians who specialize in animal reproduction*

Toxicology: veterinarians who study the effects of poisons and other toxic products on the body (and how to treat animals affected by these toxins)

Veterinary Practitioners: veterinarians in clinical practice who have additional training and expertise in certain animal species

- Avian Practice (birds)
- Equine Practice (horses)
- Beef Cattle Practice (cattle raised for meat)
- Feline Practice(*cats*)
- Canine/Feline Practice (dogs and cats)
- Exotic Companion Mammal Practice (ferrets, rabbits, mice, rats and other small mammals often kept as pets)
- Food Animal Practice (cattle and pigs)
- Dairy Practice (cows that produce milk)
- Reptile and Amphibian Practice (snakes, lizards, salamanders, turtles, etc.)
- Swine Health Management (pigs)

Zoological Medicine: veterinarians who work with zoo collection animals, free-living wildlife, aquatic species and companion zoological animals