



**GULF COAST
VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS**

*Advancing Compassionate
Veterinary Care*

**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Gulf Coast Veterinary Internal Medicine & Critical Care is the **ONLY** referral practice with 2 Critical Care specialists on staff
- Critical Care specialists are easily identified with **DACVECC** or **Dip ACVECC** in their credentials
- Critical Care specialists can treat a variety of acute illnesses in addition to helping manage acute episodes of chronic disease
- Critical Care specialists can coordinate care between specialists in complex cases with multi-system involvement

Acupuncture
713.693.1166

Dermatology & Allergy
713.693.1188

Diagnostic Imaging
713.693.1177

Internal Medicine
& Critical Care
713.693.1144

Oncology
713.693.1166



State of the Art Care

THE *VETERINARY* MEDICAL CENTER
INNOVATIVE. EXPERIENCED.

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Veterinary Critical Care

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Figure 1: Max, a puppy with pneumonia, is tended to by a Critical Care specialist while oxygen is administered by an ICU technician

Figure 2: Hershey Kisses recovers from parvo virus infection in ICU with a feeding tube in place to provide nutritional support



Figure 1



Figure 2

Dear Colleague,

Did you know that there is a veterinary specialty that focuses exclusively on critical patients? The American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care currently has approximately 250 specialists in the United States and their only focus is treating critical pets that need their attention. Two of those specialists are located here, in the heart of the Galleria!

Gulf Coast Veterinary Internal Medicine and Critical Care is the ONLY referral practice in Houston with 2 board certified Critical Care specialists, allowing them to care for Houston's most critical pets 7 days a week!

What is a Critical Care Specialist

A Critical Care specialist is a veterinarian who is trained and dedicated to treating life-threatening conditions. Each Critical Care specialist must first be a graduate of a recognized veterinary school. Most complete a 1 year rotating internship then go on to pursue a minimum of 3 additional years of intense training in emergency medicine, surgery and critical care through an American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) approved residency training program. Once the veterinarian has completed their specialty training, they must pass a board certification examination given by the ACVECC. Upon successful completion of the training **and** passing the examination, the veterinarian is a Diplomate of the ACVECC, is termed a "specialist", and is board certified in veterinary emergency and critical care. Veterinary Critical Care specialists are easily identified by the letters DACVECC or Dip. ACVECC listed in their credentials. Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care is a specialty on its own and is not a subspecialty of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) or the American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS).

What types of patients do Critical Care specialists manage?

No one plans for their pets to be sick, however should the need arise; a Critical Care specialist can handle a variety of emergencies and illnesses. A Critical Care specialist is ready to manage acute problems such as toxin ingestion, seizures, coagulation problems, liver failure and kidney failure. They are also able to manage severe and life threatening trauma such as hit by car cases, dog fight wounds, closed head injury and near drowning. They have been trained to recognize and treat various stages of shock and are experts in the fluid therapy, electrolyte management and blood transfusion medicine.

Many times, Critical Care specialists are involved in the management of patients having long term problems that suddenly decompensate, such as congestive heart failure, airway problems or unregulated diabetes.

What if my patient requires a lengthy hospital stay and 24 hour monitoring?

Most instances, once the patient has been stabilized from their acute illness, they will require some time in an intensive care setting to recover completely. A Critical Care specialist can continue to be beneficial in the ICU setting as they guide your patient's care and recovery. A veterinary intensive care unit is very similar to a human intensive care unit. Specially trained technicians monitor these critically ill pets closely, obtaining frequent vital signs and blood-work when the Critical Care specialist feels it is necessary. The ICU at Gulf Coast Veterinary Internal Medicine & Critical Care has on-site laboratory, allowing the Critical Care specialist to obtain blood-work results immediately so that treatment is not delayed. Oxygen delivery is available 24/7 and should the need arise, a Critical Care specialist has been trained to maintain patients on a mechanical ventilator (a breathing machine).

For patients recovering from major surgery, a Critical Care specialist can provide advanced options for round the clock pain management and also discuss additional supportive care that may be needed such as blood, plasma or albumin transfusions. They can also discuss and implement nutritional therapy for patients that are unwilling or unable to eat during their recovery period, as nutrition plays a major role in your patient's road to recovery. Frequently, nutrition is accomplished with nasogastric feeding tubes, PEG tubes or even IV nutrition when indicated.

Often these critical cases are complex and involve multiple organ systems. The Critical Care specialists at Gulf Coast also function as the "quarterback", working to coordinate care between the different specialties available at Gulf Coast (Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Oncology, Surgery and Radiology), ensuring that no part of the patient's condition is left untreated.

**How do I contact the Critical Care Team to refer a patient?**

If you are interested in consulting with one of our Critical Care specialists or need to refer a patient for care, please don't hesitate to call the Critical Care Team at (713) 693-1144. The Critical Care Team is located within Gulf Coast Veterinary Internal Medicine & Critical Care and sees referrals Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm and Saturday 8am-2pm.

Veterinary Critical Care specialists deal with the most critical patients every day, giving them the advantage of experience when helping your patients. We encourage you to use their expertise and experience as an extension of your practice.

www.gcvvs.com

Celebrating 20 years of Compassionate Veterinary Care

GULF COAST
VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS

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To the Doctors of:

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and Gulf Coast Veterinary Oncology are now on Facebook*