# WHAT IS A VETERINARY NEUROLOGIST:

A Board-Certified Veterinary Neurologist has been trained to understand and treat all forms of neurologic disease. It is only after the completion of an undergraduate degree, veterinary degree, up to five years of internships and residencies, an extensive qualifying exam and a two-day certification exam in neurology and neurosurgery that a veterinary doctor can become a Board-Certified Veterinary Neurologist. This extensive education and experience puts the Veterinary Neurologist at the forefront of veterinary care.

Our team also includes veterinary personnel who are vital to the care of our patients and clients. These members of our team play an important part in our ability to provide thorough one-on-one care.



JOE KOWAL DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)





### Specialty Care by Appointment Open 24/7/365 For Emergencies

(360) 635-5302 | PacificNWVets.com 815 SE 160th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98683

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**NOTES:** 

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#### **NEUROLOGY**





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## WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR FIRST VISIT

We understand this can be a stressful time. Your primary veterinarian has referred you to us because we are experts who are committed to providing exceptional care and because they know that we can help you and your pet.

#### THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Once you and your pet are comfortable, our team will take a medical history along with your pet's vital signs and we will perform a thorough neurologic exam. When this examination is complete, we will discuss with you the possible causes of your pet's symptoms, along with treatment options and likely outcomes. This examination and discussion typically takes one hour but can extend to several hours depending on the findings and testing that is recommended. Following the completion of any recommended testing, a treatment plan can begin.

### COORDINATED CARE WITH YOU AND YOUR PRIMARY VETERINARIAN

Our neurologist will maintain open communication with you regarding your pet's condition. Since we work as a team with your primary care veterinarian, our doctors will continually update your veterinarian on your pet's condition.

## WHY YOU MAY BE REFERRED:

You may be referred to our neurology department because your pet has one or more of the following symptoms:

- Seizures
- Neck and back pain
- Poor balance, wobbly gait
- Head tilt
- Difficulty walking
- Generalized weakness
- Paralysis
- Nerve or muscle dysfunction
- Intervertebral disc disease
- Tumors involving the brain or nerves
- Abnormal behavior

# SERVICES & DIAGNOSTICS:

To treat these symptoms, we provide medical treatment utilizing the latest medications & treatment:

- Brain surgery for tumors & malformation
- Spinal cord surgery
- Scope assisted surgical procedures
- Muscle & nerve biopsy
- Medical management

We also offer Advance Diagnostics including:

- Onsite MRI
- CT scans
- Electromyography

