

# West Los Angeles Animal Hospital Approved as a Veterinary Trauma Center

One of nine hospitals nationwide to meet criteria

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**North Grafton, Mass.** – The American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) has approved West Los Angeles Animal Hospital to be provisionally designated as a Veterinary Trauma Center in a new initiative designed to improve treatment outcomes of animal trauma cases.

The Veterinary Trauma Center designation is part of an effort by the ACVECC Veterinary Committee on Trauma (VetCOT) to create a network of lead hospitals that will seed the development of trauma systems nationally. West Los Angeles Animal Hospital is one of nine hospitals approved for the new designation. These hospitals will work collaboratively to define high standards of care and disseminate information that improves trauma patient management efficiencies and outcomes. In addition to West Los Angeles Animal Hospital, the following veterinary emergency care providers have been designated as the first wave of Veterinary Trauma Centers:

- Tufts Foster Hospital for Small Animals at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (North Grafton, Massachusetts)
- Southern California Veterinary Specialty Hospital (Irvine, California)
- BluePearl Veterinary Partners – Tampa (Tampa, Florida)
- University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Urbana, Illinois
- University of Minnesota – Veterinary Medical Center (St. Paul, Minnesota)
- North Carolina State University – College of Veterinary Medicine (Raleigh, North Carolina)
- Oradell Animal Hospital (Paramus, New Jersey)
- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

The Veterinary Trauma Center designation reflects a comprehensive depth of resources available to small animal patients suffering traumatic injuries. Patient care can be tailored to individual needs through a team-based approach that allows emergency/critical care veterinarians to work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, internists, radiologists, cardiologists, neurologists, and other specialists.

The criteria and expectations for Veterinary Trauma Centers include:

- On a 24/7 basis, the ability to provide total care for every aspect of management of the small animal trauma patient, from emergency stabilization through definitive medical and surgical care, and rehabilitation.
- The availability of board-certified specialists for consultation seven days a week in the fields of emergency and critical care, surgery, and radiology.

“This new designation creates a standard of care in veterinary medicine that didn’t previously exist and provides pet owners with important information in the event of a trauma-related emergency,” said Dr. Armelle de Laforcade, an emergency and critical care veterinarian at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and executive secretary of ACVECC. “Receiving care at a certified trauma center with the necessary resources in place may help improve survival rates for the most severely traumatized patient.”

Similar to human trauma centers, veterinary trauma centers also provide leadership in education and research. One of the goals of the veterinary trauma center network is to create a database of information related to animals sustaining trauma that can be used for multi-center veterinary trauma research.

“By working collaboratively with leaders in the veterinary trauma field throughout the country, advancements in trauma care will be shared between centers rapidly, assuring the most severely injured patients have access to the most advanced therapies,” said Dr. Kelly Hall, a board-certified emergency and critical veterinarian, coordinator of the University of Minnesota’s Animal Trauma Center and chair of the VetCOT.

A VetCOT subcommittee will be working with the centers throughout the first year to ensure all the guidelines and requirements, which were generated by a multi-national group of veterinary critical care specialists, are being met.

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## **About West Los Angeles Animal Hospital**

Established in 1984, West Los Angeles Animal Hospital is one of the largest veterinary hospitals in the country in addition to being the first specialty and referral hospital in Los Angeles. Serving Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, Orange and Ventura counties and the surrounding communities, the facility provides 24/7/365 emergency and critical care services and offers a full complement of specialty services in virtually all areas of veterinary medical specialties. Recently relocated to a 42,000 sq. ft. facility, the hospital is equipped with the most advanced technology to ensure optimal care for its patients. The hospital is actively engaged in veterinary medical research through participation in clinical trials and in education and outreach within the veterinary community through its intern and continuing education programs. For more information, visit our website at [VCAWLASpecialty.com](http://VCAWLASpecialty.com).