Pet Owners - Frequently Asked Questions

FINDING A VETERINARIAN

Can you help me find a veterinarian in my area?

Yes, the AzVMA offers an online "Find a Veterinarian" search tool for pet owners. You can narrow the search fields by practice type, city, zip code, services, or veterinarian name.

Are there veterinarians that do house calls?

Some veterinarians offer mobile services and will come to your home to treat your animal. You may visit the "Find A Mobile Veterinarian" online search tool to find a mobile veterinarian in your area.

Can you help me find a specialized veterinarian?

The AzVMA has a list of many specialized veterinarians who are board-certified. To find a veterinarian specialist, click on our "Find a Specialist" search tool. The search fields can be narrowed by diplomate type, city, county, veterinarian name or practice name.

NOTE: When searching for a specialist, utilize our key to diplomate field abbreviations list. While the find a veterinarian search tools reflects over 1,200 veterinarians, this may not be a complete listing as membership in the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association is voluntary.

Who are veterinarian diplomates or specialists?

Diplomate is a title that refers to a veterinarian who is board-certified in a veterinary specialty area. Diplomates, commonly have 4-8 years of additional training after veterinary school which includes a 3-year residency. Residencies provide specific training in an area of specialization that is not available as part of a typical veterinary education. This process is strictly supervised by a national organization made up of those types of specialists. These colleges ensure consistency in training and adherence to high standards. Once the program has been completed, the resident must pass a rigorous examination. Only then does the veterinarian earn the title of diplomate and is considered a specialist in that particular veterinary specialty.

PET TRAVEL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

What is a pet health certificate?

When traveling with your pet(s), there may be animal health requirements specific for that destination. As soon as you know your travel details, contact your local veterinarian to assist with the pet travel process. Factors to consider may include meeting time frames for obtaining a health certificate, updating vaccinations, diagnostic testing, or administration of medications/treatments.

USDA VETERINARIANS

How can I find a USDA accredited veterinarian?

When pets travel internationally, many countries require an international health certificate to be issued (completed, signed and dated) by a veterinarian and then endorsed (countersigned and embossed/stamped) by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). When APHIS endorsement of the health certificate is required, the veterinarian that issues the health certificate must be USDA Accredited. USDA Accredited Veterinarians have completed training in the state(s) they are licensed in to have this qualification. Generally, any licensed veterinarian can issue health certificates for pets that do not require APHIS endorsement, including for pets traveling interstate.

LOST PET HELP

Can you help me find my lost pet?

The AzVMA is unable to assist pet owners with locating lost pets. However, we would recommend the following tips which could help reunite you with your beloved pet.
1. Search your neighborhood
2. Post a description of your pet on social media networks such as Nextdoor or local Facebook groups
3. Check online pet microchip lookup databases
4. Contact local animal shelters, rescues, and animal control facilities
5. Create and post flyers and signs with a picture of your pet and your contact information

ADDRESSING DISPUTES

How can I resolve a conflict with my veterinary hospital?

We highly recommend working with your veterinarian or the practice manager to try to resolve any concerns you may have. If you are unable to come to an agreement, you may contact the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board at 602-242-7936 for additional options.