

Welcome to Bush Veterinary Neurology Service (BVNS)

We understand this can be a stressful time for you and your pet, but rest assured, your veterinarian has referred you to us today because we are the leading center for advanced neurology, and we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

Today, by conducting a thorough examination, we hope to determine the location and cause of your pet's disease. Once an accurate diagnosis is obtained, we can design a treatment plan to improve your pet's function and comfort. Initial consultations typically take one hour, but can be longer depending on the findings.

Upon arriving at BVNS a client service representative will greet you and your pet. If you need help bringing your pet inside, please call us when you arrive and a nurse will be glad to assist. So that we may become more familiar with you and your pet, you will be asked to fill out a new client information sheet. If desired, these forms can be provided by email in advance. Simply call us at 703.669.2829 or download them from our website, www.bvns.net.

Once all paperwork is complete, a veterinary neurology nurse will meet you in the lobby and escort you and your pet into an exam room. Upon entering the exam room the following will occur:

- 1. History** — We will ask for a list of all of the problems that your pet is experiencing. We will also ask when the problem began and about the problem's progression. This can be time consuming. However, we do not want to overlook information that might be critical to determining the best diagnostic and therapeutic course.
- 2. Vitals** — We will record your pet's weight, temperature, pulse rate, respiratory rate, mucous membrane color, and capillary refill time. These values indicate the overall health of your pet and provide baseline values.
- 3. Neurology Examination** — After reviewing your pet's history and vital parameters, a BVNS board certified neurologist will perform a physical and neurological examination. The neurology examination will include an evaluation of awareness, gait, posture, reflex, cranial nerve function, retinal and orthopedic function.
- 4. Record Review** — A BVNS neurologist will review all relevant records from your veterinarian, such as blood work results, radiographs, and CT or MRI images. When necessary, they will confer with your veterinarian during the appointment.
- 5. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Plan** — Once the neurologist has reviewed all the information (history, exam, existing tests, etc.), he or she will discuss a diagnostic plan and your pet's prognosis. The neurologist will recommend additional testing if it could make a significant difference in the outcome. Useful tests in a patient with neurological disease include laboratory tests, radiographs, CSF analysis, MRI, or surgery. However, testing may not be necessary, and in these cases, the neurologist will recommend time, observation, and potentially a trial with different medicines.
- 6. Communication With Your Referring Veterinarian** — After the exam, a copy of the report and any diagnostic tests will be faxed to your veterinarian. The neurologist will contact your veterinarian to discuss any significant findings. We realize the best results are generated when you, your veterinarian, and our staff work together and communicate as a team.
- 7. Follow Up** — Subsequent phone consultations or emails will likely be necessary to follow your pet's progress. Less commonly, follow-up examinations may be necessary to monitor your pet's condition. Whenever possible, follow-up blood tests will be performed by your veterinarian and faxed to the BVNS board certified neurologist for their input and interpretation. It's this collaborative approach that helps ensure your pet receives complete and comprehensive care. If you have any questions or concerns post visit, please do not hesitate to call our office. Thank you.