

# The Cutting Edge

## Annapolis

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## Towson

F. Robert Weeren, DVM, MS, DACVS  
Sean P. Kennedy, DVM, DACVS  
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## FUN FACTS

- Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists hosted a HELICA canine cementless hip implant course on May 17 & 18, 2008 in the Annapolis office. Dr. Volk was flown in from Germany to teach the course. Several board certified veterinary surgeons from across the country were in attendance.
- Dr. Evans is in the process of completing her training to be a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist (CCRT). Diana Huey, RVT (Annapolis) and Julie Frenkil, RVT (Towson) are in the process of completing their training to be Certified Canine Rehabilitation Assistants (CCRA).
- Dr. Roa recently worked with the veterinarians at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore to perform a splenectomy on their resident warthog, "Frasier".

## Neurologic Surgery at Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists

A frequent question asked of us in the last few years is: **"Do you still do spinal surgery?"** The answer is **ABSOLUTELY!**

We have been performing spinal surgery since our inception in 1992 and have always continued to do so. Spinal surgeries commonly performed at our practices include intervertebral disk ruptures, cauda equina compression, spinal fractures, spinal neoplasia, Wobblers disease (Annapolis only), and atlantoaxial subluxation. We also have after hours availability for neurologic emergencies 95% of the time at our Annapolis location!

A big reason for the question has been the increase in the number of neurologists in our area in recent years. So the next logical question is: "Who should be doing surgery on our neurologic patients; surgeons or neurologists?" The short answer is: **BOTH!**

Neurologic surgery has traditionally been performed by surgical specialists. In fact, as surgeons, we are required to perform a minimum of 40 neurologic surgeries in the course of our surgical training in order to become board certified. The specialty of neurology is actually a sub specialty of internal medicine. When specialists were primarily found at universities, spinal surgery (with a few exceptions) was traditionally performed by the surgical departments. Neurologists were primarily with the internal medicine departments and mainly handled the medical side of neurology. However, as veterinary specialty services evolved and spread from the universities to the private sector, it became more common for neurologists, as well as surgeons, to be trained in neurologic surgery.

Many people argue about which specialty is better at treating surgical neurologic patients. But the reality is that either a neurologist or a surgeon with appropriate training and skill can perform high quality spinal surgery.

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**Neurologic Surgery at Chesapeake Veterinary  
Surgical Specialists**

Spinal surgery is frequently an emergency and our neurologic patients are very fortunate to live in an area with a large number of skilled neurologists and surgeons who are able to help them. Here at Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists we also are very privileged to have a good working relationship with the majority of the neurologists and with the other surgeons in our area so that the best possible care can be provided for these patients.

Please feel free to contact us for more information regarding our neurologic surgical services.



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