

## 35 YEARS OF PET EMERGENCIES

**CHICAGO, ILL., September 30, 2013...** In 1978, Jimmy Carter was president of the United States, basketball star Kobe Bryant was born, and gasoline cost \$1.56 per gallon. At that time, if your pet needed after hours emergency care, you called your veterinarian, often waking him from a sound sleep. In order to improve emergency care for pets and ensure some sleep for Chicago veterinarians, a group of Chicago veterinarians started Chicago Veterinary Emergency Service (now called Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center [www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com](http://www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com)), which opened 35 years ago in September, 1978.

At that time, there were very few dedicated emergency facilities anywhere in the country. Even a major city like Chicago lacked an emergency-only facility within the city limits. According to Dr. Sheldon Rubin, one of the founders, "I knew that pets and their owners could be better served with a dedicated emergency facility that was open when family veterinarians were closed."

In the early days, the services offered were not all that different than those offered by family veterinarians. The biggest difference was that the hospital was open on nights and weekends. Dr. Jerry Klein, supervising veterinarian of Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center, who joined the staff 33 years ago said, "When we first opened, we gave veterinarians time to sleep and we gave them and their clients a sense of security. They knew that pets would be well taken care of if an emergency arose during off hours."

In 1978, emergency facilities, just like family veterinarians, had to rely heavily upon a pet's history and basic tests to determine what problems they were facing. Often, a veterinarian's experience and intuition were key to successfully diagnosing and treating sick or injured animals.

"Today, things are very different," said Dr. Klein. "Through the use of modern diagnostic testing we have the ability to give pet owners answers to their questions and options for treatment of their beloved pets."

Many of the diagnostic tools used today are the same as those used in human hospitals. In fact, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center resembles a human hospital more than it resembles a neighborhood veterinary clinic. The facility offers state-of-the-art equipment, advanced diagnostics and medical care such as:

- MRI
- CT
- In-house laboratory
- In-house blood bank
- Heart monitoring
- Oxygen cages
- Intensive Care Units
- Isolation Units

In addition to emergency and critical care, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center also offers a broad range of on-site, board-certified, veterinary specialists. Partnering with the emergency and critical care staff are board-certified veterinarians specializing in:

- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Eye Care
- Internal Medicine
- Oncology
- Neurology
- Surgery

Depending on the pet's condition and the owner's wishes, the result can be care that is as extensive and effective as that afforded to people. Spinal surgery, blood transfusions, root canal, high-blood pressure treatment, cardiac care, complete cancer diagnosis and treatment options and rehabilitative care are just a few examples of the care available today that was not available 35 years ago.

In addition to changes in technology and specialty care, there have also been changes in people's expectations when it comes to the care of their pets. Pet owners want answers and options for treating their pet. Thirty-five years ago, the main question was often, "Is my pet in pain?" when determining whether or not to try to extend the pet's life. Today, pet owners want to know more. "Fortunately, our resources and expertise have developed right along with the expectations of pet owners over the past 35 years," said Dr. Klein.

When the facility first opened, there were six employees – two veterinarians and four technicians. Today, at Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center there is a staff of approximately 150, including 14 emergency and 20 specialty veterinarians.

### **About Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center**

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency facility, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center provides advanced emergency, critical and specialty care for cats and dogs. Each year the center treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in its emergency room and thousands more are cared for by veterinary specialists. Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24 hours, every day of the year.

In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery. This state-of-the art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing emergency care for cats and dogs since 1978.

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