



VCA VETERINARY SPECIALTY CENTER *of* SEATTLE

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Hours & Services

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE	24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year						
NEUROLOGY neuro@vcahospitals.com	Dr. Alix Partnow						
		Dr. Karen Kline					
INTERNAL MEDICINE imradreferralcoordinator@vcahospitals.com	Dr. Polly Peterson						
		Dr. Sanjeev Gokhale					
		Dr. Shanna Pace					
SURGERY surgeryreferralcoordinator@vcahospitals.com	Dr. Dave Snyder						
		Dr. Courtney Watkins					
RADIOLOGY imradreferralcoordinator@vcahospitals.com	Dr. Tori McKlveen						
	Dr. Todd Smithenson						
ONCOLOGY oncologyreferralcoordinator@vcahospitals.com				Dr. Erin Arnold			
CARDIOLOGY				Dr. April Durtschi (starts Jan. 2012)			

Our Newest Practitioners

DR. ALIX PARTNOW

Neurology

Dr. Alix Partnow was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2002 from Williams College where she majored in Chemistry. She went on to receive her DVM degree from the University Of Illinois College Of Veterinary Medicine in 2007. In June of that year she joined the team at VCA Veterinary Specialty Center of Seattle where she completed a rotating internship.

Following completion of her internship, she traveled back to the Midwest to pursue a residency in neurology/neurosurgery as well as a Master of Science degree in veterinary medicine and surgery at the University of Missouri. Her master's thesis was on Paradoxical Dysuria among Dog with Degenerative Lumbosacral Stenosis. Having completed her residency and masters training in 2007, she is happy to return to VSC to once again serve the pets and people of the Pacific Northwest.

Her professional interests include neuro-oncology, heritable and degenerative conditions of the central nervous system, neurosurgery and post-operative rehabilitation. Outside the hospital Dr. Partnow is an avid cook, baker, and a distance runner. You'll probably find her exploring local parks and trails with her two dogs.

DR. APRIL DURTSCHI

Cardiology

Originally from the Four Corners area of New Mexico and Arizona, Dr. April Durtschi graduated from The University of Arizona Magna Cum Laude in Microbiology with a capstone in object-permanence with Dr. Irene Pepperberg and Alex, an African Grey parrot. She obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2002 from Colorado State University where she also researched the effects of cancer drugs on the heart. She spent some time between college and her internship learning Japanese veterinary culture at Daktari/ Angell Animal Hospital in Tokyo. She travelled to New York City for an internship at The Animal Medical Center in 2003.

After a couple years in general and emergency practice in California, April continued focus on cardiology at The University of Missouri Columbia. Her post-doctoral and fellow project evaluated gender and hormone effects on cardiac electrophysiology. She completed her residency in Small and Large Animal Cardiology at University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011 and continued additional training in clinical electrophysiology at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. Her practice is focused and limited to cardiorespiratory, cardiovascular, and electrocardiac diseases. She will also be an integral member to the expansion of our minimally invasive interventional radiology team.

DR. SHANNA PACE

Internal Medicine

Dr. Shanna Pace joins the VSC team in September of 2011 after completing her residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Georgia. She received a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia – Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005, graduating cum laude. After graduation she completed a one-year rotating medicine and surgery internship at Angell, WNE in Massachusetts. Following her internship, she worked for a little over a year in general private practice in Denver, Colorado before starting her internal medicine residency at the University of Georgia in 2008.

Dr. Pace has special interests in renal diseases, endocrine diseases (specifically Cushing's disease), bone marrow diseases and chronic gastrointestinal conditions. She has done specific research on hypercoagulability in relation to dogs diagnosed with Cushing's disease and how this may relate to treatment and mortality. She has given multiple lectures during her career on all of the above topics and she is looking forward to speaking about these topics in continuation education seminars in the area.

When Dr. Pace is not at VSC, she enjoys the outdoors by going on long hikes and camping with her dogs, Hanna and Willow. She loves riding and show jumping her wonderful Dutch Warmblood mare, Cherie, and alpine skiing during the winter. She really believes staying active outdoors is important to always keeping a smile on her face.

DR. COURTNEY WATKINS

Surgery

Originally from Rhode Island, Dr. Watkins received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Rhode Island before completing her doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida in 2006. During veterinary school, she worked in a laboratory at the University of Florida's McKnight Brain Institute performing translational research in vascular, interventional radiology, and neurovascular procedures. After veterinary school, she completed a rotating internship at Animal Specialty Group in Los Angeles followed by a surgical internship at Veterinary Specialty Hospital of San Diego. Dr. Watkins spent the next three years as a small animal surgical resident at Washington State University. During the residency, she additionally received a master's degree in veterinary clinical sciences with research in minimally invasive surgery.

Dr. Watkins enjoys all forms of surgery, including soft tissue, orthopedic and neurologic surgery. She has a strong interest in minimally invasive surgeries such as arthroscopic, laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures as well as interventional radiology. In her free time, Dr. Watkins enjoys many outdoor activities including hiking with her dog, cycling, running, skiing and scuba diving.