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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

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ARIZONA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS: BRINGING TECHNOLOGY TO ARIZONA

As the human-animal bond continues to grow across America, pet owners are committed to providing the best health care available for their best friends. As scientific advancements in veterinary medicine keep pace with that of human medicine, more pets are living longer and healthier lives due to advancements in technology and a vastly increasing veterinary medical knowledge base.

For those pet owners in the Southwest, Arizona's largest and most technically advanced multispecialty veterinary hospital has opened its doors in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert. Conveniently located two miles from the metropolitan freeway system, Arizona Veterinary Specialists (AVS) is home to a multitude of veterinary specialists whose skills and knowledge have earned them respect and recognition by their peers and clients alike. The specialties represented currently include anesthesiology, dentistry, dermatology, emergency and critical care, internal medicine, oncology, radiation oncology, ophthalmology, radiology, and surgery.

The 32,000 square foot, two-level hospital vastly increases the span of services available to the veterinary community and brings many technologic advances to the state of Arizona. One such new therapy that is available in the facility is a linear accelerator with surface electron



capability that is used for radiation therapy for pets. AVS is introducing the first linear accelerator with electron capability dedicated to veterinary use in the state of Arizona. A linear accelerator delivers a uniform dose of high energy X-rays to the region of the patient's tumor. These X-rays can destroy the cancer cells while allowing normal surrounding tissue to be spared. Radiation therapy is indicated for the treatment of tumors that would have unacceptable functional and/or cosmetic side effects if they were surgically removed. It can also be used to eliminate residual disease left behind when surgery could not remove the entire tumor without creating serious side effects. Collaborative efforts between the AVS surgery and oncology departments greatly increase the success rate for treating pets with cancer.

AVS also brings nuclear medicine dedicated to small animals to Arizona. Radionuclide imaging, or nuclear imaging, is a technique that allows veterinarians to obtain images of various body systems. To obtain these images, tiny amounts of radioactive materials (called "tracers") are introduced into the patients' body, usually by intravenous injection. The "tracers" emit a certain type of energy, called gamma rays, which are detected by a device called a gamma camera. Nuclear medicine at Arizona Veterinary Specialists, with a state-of-the-art digital gamma camera, can aid in the diagnosis of a wide variety of conditions including liver problems, thyroid problems common in cats, and bone diseases or injuries.

The radiology department at AVS includes a helical CT (computed tomography) scanner dedicated for veterinary use. A CT scan is a special radiographic test that uses a computer to produce detailed cross-sectional images or "slices" of parts of the body. CT can "see" inside the brain, and other parts of the body, into areas that cannot be visualized on regular X-ray examination. CT makes it possible to diagnose certain diseases earlier and more accurately than with other imaging tools.

Specially designed facilities at AVS promote the safe and protected use of radioactive iodine treatment. Radioactive iodine has become the treatment of choice for treating feline hyperthyroidism because of the single dose regimen and lack of side effects. Radioactive iodine is rapidly absorbed by the abnormally functioning thyroid tissue. The radioactive iodine emits a beta particle which selectively destroys the abnormal thyroid tissue, leaving normal tissue undamaged.

The surgical department is fully equipped to provide a wide range of orthopedic, soft tissue, oncologic, and neurosurgical procedures, including total hip replacement, spinal surgery, tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO), and thoracic and abdominal surgery. In addition, our dual board certified anesthesiologist and critical care specialist is committed to providing safe anesthetic protocols with special emphasis on surgical pain management and prevention.

The ophthalmology department is fully equipped with the latest technology to treat all forms of eye diseases in animals. The AVS facility has operating microscopes, phacoemulsification units used to treat cataracts in pets, various types of cryosurgical units for the treatment of glaucoma and other eye problems, carbon dioxide and diode direct and indirect lasers, electroretinography, and ultrasonography. Electroretinography allows diagnosis of problems with the visual part of the eye, the retina. Ultrasonography allows the ophthalmologists to evaluate eye problems that are hard to diagnose with traditional imaging methods, allowing earlier identification and treatment of eye problems. In addition, the ophthalmology equipment includes standard biomicroscopes used to identify the depth of eye lesions, indirect ophthalmoscopes, applanation tonometers used to measure eye pressure to detect glaucoma or inflammation of the eye, and cameras for photography of eye diseases for teaching and educational purposes.



The new facility has four fully equipped surgical suites, a dedicated 24-hour emergency and critical care service to provide continuous, round-the-clock patient care, an in-house diagnostic laboratory, diagnostic imaging facilities with 2 digital radiology units, ultrasound imaging equipment, a complete dental treatment suite with digital dental radiography equipment, a dermatology treatment suite fully equipped to diagnose and treat complex skin problems in pets, and an endoscopy procedure room. Fiberoptic endoscopy equipment allows visualization of areas within the body, such as the lungs or gastrointestinal tract, and provides a noninvasive method to detect and diagnose many diseases and remove ingested foreign objects. Ultrasonography allows non-invasive evaluation of many internal organs, and echocardiography allows evaluation of heart function.

Treatment areas designed for hospitalized patients provide focused state-of-the-art care for internal medicine patients, including special critical care oxygen-equipped cages. Most examination rooms are equipped with computers for retrieval of patient information and presentation of digital radiographic images. The basement level houses a conference center which is ideal for hosting continuing education seminars.

With a staff of dedicated professionals, many of whom are nationally renowned in their field, AVS will draw patients from as far away as New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, California, and Texas. As “Leaders in Specialty Care,” AVS is proud to bring a whole new level of veterinary specialty care to pets in the regional Southwest!