



VetSurg View Newsletter 26.1

Welcome to 2026! As the new year begins, we want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your continued trust, collaboration, and partnership with VetSurg. Your referrals allow us to work together in providing advanced, thoughtful surgical care while utilizing a Team approach for you and your clients throughout every stage of treatment.

As we move into the year ahead, we're excited to continue strengthening our collaboration with our referring community, expanding access to specialized surgical services, and investing in the technology, training, and communication that support patient outcomes.

We look forward to another year of working alongside you and supporting our shared goal of delivering exceptional veterinary care in 2026.

Important topics featured in this edition:

- Consultation Service Expansion to Conejo Valley
- Our Consultation Scheduling Process
- *UrgentOrtho*
- 2026 Pricing Updates



Consultation Service Update

Santa Barbara Update

Our Santa Barbara consultation Service, launched in July 2025, has been a successful and valuable addition for primary care veterinarians, residents, and clients throughout Santa Barbara County. Offered Tuesday mornings at Urgent Veterinary Care of Santa Barbara with Dr. Hilary Ludwig, DACVS-SA, this service has allowed patients to be evaluated for suspected surgical conditions, while strengthening collaboration with Santa Barbara veterinarians.

Dr. Ludwig, a Santa Barbara local resident, has been available to meet clients, perform examinations, and discuss diagnostic and treatment options. We have received very positive feedback from both primary veterinarians and clients, who have appreciated the increased local availability and reduced need to travel to Ventura for an initial surgical assessment.

Conejo Valley Expansion

Building on the success of the Santa Barbara program, we are excited to announce the expansion of this consultation service to the Conejo Valley beginning February 2026. Dr. Holsworth and Dr. Webb will join forces to assess patients with comprehensive consultations, review existing diagnostics, and share pre-surgical planning. This service will initially be offered Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Oaks Veterinary Urgent Care in Agoura Hills.

Consultation appointments will be scheduled through our main office and will focus on direct referrals from primary care veterinarians for patients with probable or suspected surgical conditions. As with our Santa Barbara consultations, this service is designed to support referring veterinarians while providing timely, focused evaluations for patients who may benefit from surgical care.

We welcome inquiries regarding the consultation service and the types of appointments offered. Below, we have outlined how consultation requests are categorized and prioritized at VetSurg. This system has been in place for over five years and continued to guide our scheduling approach across all consultation services. At its core, this framework prioritizes direct referrals from primary care veterinarians for surgical intervention, with all veterinarian referrals receiving higher priority than self-referred requests.

Our Consultation Scheduling Process

Urgent Consultation and Treatment

Urgent surgical referrals for orthopedic trauma, rapidly progressive tumors, juvenile patients, obstructed urinary tract patients, and stable abdominal pathology that may decompensate in an unpredictable fashion are given immediate consideration. These cases are prioritized for same day assessment and urgent surgical intervention. Primary veterinarians are able to text message the surgeon messaging service and request urgent consultation and confirmation of approximate treatment cost and surgical availability.

Surgeon Messaging Service

Veterinarian Use Only

(805) 340-5702

Routine Consultation

At VetSurg, our routine consultation scheduling system is designed to balance timely patient care with our commitment to supporting and strengthening the relationship between our hospital and our referring veterinarians. To do this effectively, consultation requests are classified into

specific categories based on referral status, medical complexity, and surgical indication.

The majority of our consultation availability is reserved for patients who are formally referred by their primary veterinarian. These referral-based consultations are prioritized to ensure we can function as a Team - providing advanced surgical care while maintaining continuity of care and clear communication throughout the process.

Self-referred consultations are scheduled more selectively, with limited availability per receiving day. In many cases, these appointments require additional medical record review or diagnostic clarification. For this reason, scheduling may take longer when a patient has not yet been evaluated and referred by their primary veterinarian. These cases are not prioritized.

We strongly encourage clients to begin clinical evaluation with their primary veterinarian whenever possible. This allows for appropriate early assessment and timely referral decision making to help ensure that all parties - client, referring veterinarian, and surgeon are aligned on the patients care plan.

Category	Description	Priority	Waiting Period
V1	pDVM Referral: Referred by primary for a probable surgical procedure	Top Priority- The majority of available appointments are allocated for V1	1 - 7 Days
V2	pDVM Referral: Undetermined issue referred by a primary veterinarian	Moderate Priority	2 - 4 Weeks
V3	pDVM Referral: Non-Surgical Issue referred by a primary veterinarian	Moderate Priority	2 - 4 Weeks
S4	Self Referral: pDVM examined, not directly referred ; surgical condition suspected	Low Priority	3 - 6 Weeks
S5	Self Referral: (Returning 2 nd side TPLO or PA only)	Low Priority	3 - 6 Weeks
S6	Self Referral: NO current pDVM exam or active pDVM	Very Low Priority- Strongly encourage client to see pDVM for exam and confirm need for referral	5 - 6 Weeks
V Complex Consult	pDVM Referral: Consultation has been sought with 2+ veterinarians. Has had extensive work-ups or imaging (MRI/CT/US) requiring more review and time needed for consult.	Moderate Priority	3 - 6 Weeks
S Complex Consult	Self Referral: Consultation has been sought with 2+ veterinarians. Has not been directly referred by a Veterinarian. Has had extensive work-ups or imaging (MRI/CT/US) requiring more review and time needed for consult.	Very Low Priority	5 - 6 Weeks

VetSurg continues to offer our ***UrgentOrtho***, a dedicated service for urgent orthopedic cases requiring immediate surgical attention. This service is intended for patients who need same-day or next-day surgical intervention following traumatic orthopedic injury including long bone fracture, articular fracture, and joint luxation. As part of the service we provide overnight medical boarding for trauma patients as we prepare for their procedure.



2026 Pricing Update

Effective January 2026, VetSurg will be implementing a modest fee adjustment across select services. This change reflects ongoing increases from medical supplies, as well as the rising costs associated with maintaining advanced surgical equipment, anesthesia safety standards, and hospital operations.

Our updated 2026 all inclusive pricing guides are available, and can be delivered to your practice upon request. The pricing guides can be used to inform your clients approximate cost of surgical treatment. Some individual price variation will occur depending on other medical factors. We endeavor to provide accurate and transparent information about surgical treatment cost.

The 2025 All Inclusive Pricing Guide is no longer valid and should be disregarded.

We are transparent with our pricing and have this information readily available on our website and in our brochure. We always welcome the opportunity to provide estimates for our clients over the phone.

We remain committed to providing the highest level of surgical care while maintaining financial transparency with our referring partners and clients.

Mission Statement

To provide safe, effective, and thoughtful veterinary surgical services to our community, while maintaining a compassionate Team approach



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