



# The Best Vets in Dallas

From acupuncturists to ophthalmologists, here are the top veterinarians in your neighborhood.

BY CARLY PRICE AND DAWN McMULLAN

**M**onty Kehl and Craig Wilbanks have a house full of dogs. At least that's what it sounds like when they rush to the front door—barking, toenails clicking—to greet a visitor. The dogs have their own personalities and, as they age, their own medical problems.

With two greyhounds, 9-year-old Elmer and 10-year-old Johnny, and an 11-year-old cocker spaniel named Daisy, Kehl and Wilbanks give a lot of thought to veterinary care. Fortunately, the range of specialty and alternative pet health care in Dallas-Fort Worth has increased in the last 20 years.

"Not so long ago, for any sort of specialized veterinary care, you had to drive three or four hours to one of the university hospitals," says Dr. Darryl McDonald, staff surgeon and partner at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center, part of the Veterinary Referral

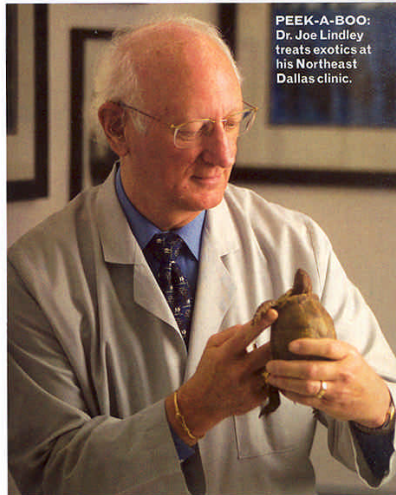
Center of North Texas. The center includes pet neurologists, ophthalmologists, oncologists, dermatologists, radiologists, and internal medicine specialists.

When it opened in 2000, the Referral Center put Dallas ahead of the curve in specialty veterinary care; now referral centers are popping up nationwide. With this trend comes increased coordination between vets and specialists.

"If I have a dog who is hit by a car and has multiple injuries, it's easy for me to walk down the hall and have the radiologist look at the X-rays or the internal medicine specialist look at the bloodwork," McDonald says.

When Daisy had a mass in her eye two years ago, she was treated successfully by an ophthalmologist at the Referral Center. Recently, Daisy got a pinched nerve and couldn't walk for weeks. When traditional medicine couldn't help, Kehl and Wilbanks turned to a pet massage therapist. As with humans, pet health care has expanded to include complementary and alternative medicine, such as acupuncture, chiropractic, herbs, massage, and other holistic treatments.

Dr. Shawn Messonnier of Plano's Paws & Claws Animal Hospital, author of *The Natural Health Bible for Dogs & Cats*, first tried alternative treatments because he couldn't make a dent in pet allergies. He used herbs and other natural approaches, and when he saw success, he didn't stop with allergies. In January, after months of trying conventional veterinary medicine, Ann



**PEEK-A-BOO:** Dr. Joe Lindley treats exotics at his Northeast Dallas clinic.

Huey and Martin McCall took their tortoise-shell tabby cat Deluxie to Messonnier. Deluxie was diagnosed with polyarthrits (arthritis in multiple joints, a rare condition in cats) and treated with steroids, but her condition worsened. Messonnier put Deluxie on eight supplements, including glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate. Now she can play and climb trees.

In addition to technology and alternative treatments, vets rely on the basics of nutrition, preventive care, and exercise to improve the duration and quality of life for pets. If all of this sounds a lot like the lectures you've been hearing from your doctor for years, that's because animal medicine lags five to seven years behind human medicine—but it's catching up. Who knows? Maybe Kehl and Wilbanks will someday share a medical insurance plan with their beloved dogs.



**ALTERNATIVE APPROACH:** Dr. Shawn Messonnier of Plano's Paws & Claws uses acupuncture and homeopathy to treat patients.

**ARLINGTON/GRAND PRAIRIE**

**Dr. Robin Crisman**  
1-20 Animal Medical Center  
(24-hour emergency care)  
5820 W. I-20, Arlington  
972-263-2525 or 817-478-PAWS

**Dr. Roy Gully**  
Gully & Associates Animal Hospital  
6300 S. Cooper St., Arlington  
817-468-2333

**BLUFFVIEW**

**Dr. Paul Carroll**  
Midway Hollow Pet Clinic  
3780 W. Northwest Hwy.  
214-902-0797

**CARROLLTON/  
FARMERS BRANCH**

**Drs. John Calhoun  
and Kelly Black**  
North Carrollton Veterinary Hospital  
1839 Frankford Rd., Carrollton  
972-492-0431

**Dr. Trisha Ballard**  
Alternative Veterinary Hospital  
(chiropractic care, alternative medicine)  
1060 W. Frankford Rd., Carrollton  
972-492-0563

**CEDAR HILL**

**Dr. Timothy England**  
Cedar Hill Veterinary Clinic (horses)  
1026 N. Hwy. 67, Cedar Hill  
972-299-5261

**THE COLONY**

**Dr. Sharon Wild**  
The Colony Animal Clinic (acupuncture)  
5906 Paige Rd., The Colony  
972-370-5220

**COPPELL**

**Dr. William Stearman III**  
Coppell Veterinary Hospital  
504 Denton Tapp Rd., Coppell  
972-462-1120

**EAST DALLAS**

**Drs. Jim Ahumada and Helene Bergeron**  
A&B Animal Clinic (wild bird rehabilitation, exotics)  
9027 Garland Rd. 214-328-7055

**Dr. Wade Dunn**  
VCA Lakewood Animal Hospital  
6363 Richmond Ave. 214-826-6601

**Dr. Karen Fling**  
East Lake Veterinary Hospital  
(rabbits, rodents, birds, acupuncture)  
10101 E. Northwest Hwy.  
214-342-3100

**Dr. Stephanie L. Chritton**  
Hillside Veterinary Clinic  
6150 E. Mockingbird Ln. 214-824-0397

**FLOWER MOUND**

**Dr. Oliver Shaffer**  
Flower Mound Veterinary Hospital  
1601 Arrowhead Dr., Flower Mound  
972-539-1575

**FRISCO**

**Drs. Kevin Marcum and Debbie Schaffer**  
Animal Medical & Surgical Hospital of Frisco (small animal surgery)  
6451 Preston Rd., Frisco  
972-335-1234

**Dr. George Martin**  
Plantation Pet Health Center  
12560 Lebanon Rd., Frisco  
972-731-0001

**GARLAND**

**Dr. Glen Campbell**  
Buckingham Animal Hospital  
1861 N. Garland Ave., Garland  
972-485-8660

**Dr. Julie Stanek**  
Centerville Road Animal Clinic  
145 E. Centerville Rd., Garland  
972-271-4637

**IRVING**

**Dr. Kembra Marshall, BVPM**  
Metroplex Veterinary Center  
(board certified to treat exotics)  
700 W. Airport Fwy., Irving  
972-438-7113

**Dr. Wesley Agler**  
Pioneer Animal Hospital  
(rabbits, rodents)  
3009 W. Pioneer Dr., Irving  
972-790-0555

**NORTH DALLAS**

**Dr. Malcolm Cameron**  
Preston Royal Animal Clinic  
10720 Preston Rd.  
214-369-7364

**Drs. Clint Chastain  
and Sue Chastain**  
Chastain Veterinary Medical  
Group/Preston Road Animal  
Hospital (reptiles)  
6060 LBJ Fwy. 972-239-1309

**Dr. E. Kelly Nitsche**  
Veterinary Specialists of  
North Texas (internal medicine)  
12101 Greenville Ave., Ste. 114  
972-437-9499

**Drs. Hugh Hays and  
Loretta Pantenburg**  
Summitree Animal & Bird Clinic  
(birds, rabbits, exotics)  
12300 Inwood Rd. 972-387-4168

**Dr. Larry Putnam**  
Meadow Central Animal Clinic  
10455 N. Central Expy.  
214-692-9007

**Dr. Kathleen Sohner**  
Central Expressway Animal Hospital  
11680 Forest Central Dr. 214-221-6857

**FAR NORTH DALLAS**

**Dr. Jeff Ellis**  
Preston Park Animal Hospital  
(greyhounds, golden retrievers)  
18770 Preston Rd. 972-985-0081

**Drs. Jennifer Garretson  
and Michael Norton**  
Frankford Crest Animal Hospital  
(exotics)  
6911 Frankford Rd. 972-398-2111

**Veterinary Referral Center of  
North Texas**  
(surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology,  
radiology, internal medicine)  
Referral from general care veterinarian  
required  
444 Trinity Mills Rd. 972-267-8100

**NORTHEAST DALLAS**

**Dr. Joe Lindley** (exotics)  
Lindley Veterinary Clinic  
8518 Plano Rd. 214-341-6600

**OAK CLIFF**

**Dr. Gwen Gierczak**  
Hampton Road Pet Hospital  
2406 Emmett St. 214-330-4677

**OAK LAWN**

**Dr. Chip Cannon**  
City Veterinary Center (surgery)  
2732 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-219-2838

**PARK CITIES**

**Dr. John Vandermeer**  
Highland Park Animal Clinic  
5323 N. Central Expy. 214-528-3360

**Dr. Andrew Martin**  
Lovers Lane Animal Medical Center  
4660 W. Lovers Ln. 214-350-5696

**Dr. Lawrence Williams**  
Preston Center Animal Clinic  
5934 W. Northwest Hwy. 214-368-3592

**PLANO**

**Drs. Charles C. Blonien and  
Michael J. Shelton**  
Parker Animal & Bird Clinic (birds)  
2129 W. Parker Rd.,  
Ste. A, Plano  
972-985-0036

**Dr. Shawn Messonnier**  
Rows & Claws Animal Hospital  
(holistic/integrated approach, including  
acupuncture, homeopathy)  
2145 W. Park Blvd., Plano  
972-867-8800

**Dr. Lee Reeves**  
Lancers Square Animal Clinic  
3207 Independence Pkwy., Plano  
972-596-3413

**Dr. Douglas K. Sanders**  
Chase Oaks Animal Clinic  
141 W. Spring Creek Pkwy.,  
Ste. 415, Plano  
972-517-1970

**RICHARDSON**

**Drs. Candy Major  
and Herman Swann**  
Plano Arapaho Veterinary Clinic  
1400 N. Plano Rd., Richardson  
972-690-8741

**Drs. Gary Brantley  
and Ann Heymann**  
Richardson Veterinary Clinic  
733 S. Floyd Rd., Richardson  
972-235-4509

**SOUTH LAKE**

**Dr. Paul Bruton**  
Animal Healthcare Clinic  
(chiropractic, acupuncture)  
1615 E. Southlake Blvd., Southlake  
817-481-1382

**Dr. Greg Moore**  
Southlake Animal Hospital  
(birds of prey, reptiles)  
200 W. Northwest Pkwy., Southlake  
817-481-2014

**UPTOWN**

**Dr. Stacie Marsh**  
City Vet Uptown Veterinary Hospital  
(24-hour emergency clinic)  
3101 McKinney Ave. 214-953-1001

**DOWNTOWN**

**Drs. Kristi Ellor, Bryan Tims,  
and Ronald Vaughn**  
Rutherford Veterinary Hospital  
924 S. Haskell Ave. 214-826-4166

**MOBILE VETS**

**Dr. Gene Giggelman**  
(chiropractic care)  
In Home Veterinary Care (Grapevine area)  
817-481-6873

**Dr. Becky Jones**  
Pet Calls Mobile Veterinary Clinic  
(Denton County)  
940-565-0091

**Dr. Steven Wilson**  
Dallas Cat Clinic  
(Plano, North Dallas area)  
972-907-2287

\*Vets who offer special services or have experience treating certain species, in addition to cats and dogs, are noted in parentheses. Note: only vets who are board certified in a specialty are technically "specialists."