



California **Veterinary Specialists**

Special Care From the Heart

Empowerment Tips

- **Take notes:** Record all discussions about your pet's disease or recommended treatments with the veterinary health care team. Repeat the information back to them to ensure that you understand completely.
- **Seek support:** Bring a friend or spouse with you when you talk to the veterinary health care team.
- **Include the whole family:** All discussions should involve everyone who is intimately associated with your pet, including your children. Allow everyone, including your children, to ask questions and to voice their opinions.
- **Ask for printed materials or information:** Obtain resources to help you understand your pet's disease and the treatment options. The Internet can be a powerful resource of both the truth and misinformation. Work with your health care team to understand the validity of all information you obtain.
- **Understand that there are no correct decisions, only decisions that are right for you:** Do not worry what other people will think about your decisions. You know your pet better than anyone else in the world. *Once you are empowered with the information you need, listen to your heart, and you will make the right decisions.*



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