**PET OWNER GUIDANCE FOR DURING & AFTER-HOURS PET HEALTH ISSUES**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Urgency:** a troubling or uncomfortable pet health matter that is not life threatening.

**Examples:** ear infection, hot spot, limping, anal gland impaction, dental disease, broken nail, minor skin wound, minor bleeding, milk chocolate ingestion, rash, itchiness, most chronic diseases with recent flareups, vomiting of less than 1 day duration, diarrhea of less than 1 day duration, inappetence of 1 day or less.

**Emergency:** a serious pet health matter that left untreated may be disabling or life threatening.

**Examples:** motor vehicle trauma, eye held closed, significant bleeding, poisonous plant ingestion, baking chocolate ingestion, rodent poison ingestion, small dog attacked by larger dog, other poison or human medication ingestions, persistent vomiting of more than 1 day, previously undiagnosed seizures > 3 minutes,

persistent diarrhea for greater than 1 day or if accompanied by persistent vomiting.

**ACTION TO TAKE:**

Call 860-693-9300 and in most cases Dr. Goldman will answer, or promptly return your call, and advise you. Most urgencies and some emergencies can be managed at home with appropriate advice. In other cases,

Dr. Goldman will either agree to see you or refer you to particular emergency facilities. Keep in mind these facilities are selected based on expertise and our experience with the outcomes achieved for our client's pets. They may not always be the closest options, but successful outcomes are the measure we use to judge what is best for your beloved pets, and our patients.

**REFERRAL OPTIONS:**

Veterinary Specialists of West Hartford 860-236-3273

New England Veterinary Center & Cancer Care 860-688-8400

Pieper Memorial Veterinary Center 860-347-8387

New Haven Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine 203-865-0878