**Ophthalmology**

**New Patient Referral Information and Instructions**

VCA Northwest Veterinary Specialists Ophthalmology Medicine Doctors are normally available seven days a week.

Paul Scherlie, DVM, DACVO Hours:  **Monday-Thursday**

Michelle Taylor, DVM, DACVO Hours: **Thursday-Saturday**

Rosalie Atkins, DVM, DACVO Hours: **10:00a-6:00p Sunday**

**9:00a-5:00p Monday-Wednesday**

To contact us please call 503.656.3999 and one of our Referral Coordinators will be happy to assist you. They are available 7 days a week: Sunday – Wednesday 7am to 6pm and Thursday – Saturday 7am to 7pm.

Thank you for scheduling an appointment with our ophthalmology department. Our goal is to provide the best care possible for you and your pet. In order to be as effective and efficient as we can, we ask that you read and follow these instructions prior to your appointment.

If you have any questions or need more information prior to scheduling an appointment with one of our internists, please request to speak to one our Referral Coordinators or to one of the ophthalmology technicians. If the Referral Coordinator or the technician cannot answer your question, they will discuss your concerns with one of the ophthalmology doctors and will call you back in a timely manner. You can also leave a voicemail. Calls are returned as soon as possible. If you feel that your pet is in an emergent situation please make sure this is brought to the attention of the person that you speak with on the phone. In some cases, we may recommend that your pet be evaluated by our emergency service so that your pet can be seen as soon as possible. At VCA NWVS an emergency veterinarian is on staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. In many cases, one of the ophthalmologist can provide a consultation to the emergency doctor if needed until transfer to the ophthalmology service can be achieved.

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**Referral Appointments with the Ophthalmology Service:**

1.We will request a copy of your pet’s medical record from your veterinarian including written chart notes, lab work results and any imaging reports (radiographs or ultrasound) so that the doctor may review them prior to your scheduled appointment.

2. Please remember to bring in all medications that your pet is currently receiving. This is extremely valuable information and will help the ophthalmologist plan further treatment recommendations.

3. Following a complete ophthalmic examination of the patient, the ophthalmologist will discuss your pet’s ocular condition and will make recommendations for further treatment and diagnostic testing. An itemized estimate for these recommendations will be provided and explained to you prior to further financial obligation to you.

4. A letter will be faxed to your veterinarian outlining our findings, treatments and future recommendations. We will also fax a copy of all lab results, including lab work and radiographic and ultrasound reports to your primary veterinarian for your pet’s permanent record.

If you need to change or cancel your appointment, please try to notify NWVS 48 hours prior to the appointment time.

Our office will call to confirm you appointment 24-48 hours before the scheduled appointment day. If you have any questions, please call our office at any time.

Thank you! We look forward to meeting you and your pet.

Ophthalmology Department

VCA Northwest Veterinary Specialists

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