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Finding Emergency Veterinary Clinics Made Easier for Summer Travelers

ATLANTA, GA (July 22, 2010) –Help is close at hand for those who experience a pet emergency on the road this summer thanks to a free service, co-sponsored by After Hours Assurance and HealthyPet Magazine, that connects travelers with the nearest emergency veterinary clinic.

Pet owners who call a special toll-free number (800-204-4595) and provide the zip code, or city and state, of their current location will receive contact information for local veterinary clinics offering emergency services. The service is available nationwide and is complimentary to callers from August 1 through Labor Day.

A “Traveling with your Pet Checklist,” which includes a wallet-sized reference card with the toll-free number, has been developed to complement the free service. Some highlights include the following:

Things to bring with you:

- Benadryl -- very effective in combating allergic attacks and insect stings
- A flashlight -- for nighttime walks
- Your clinic’s phone number – in case you need medical advice while you are out of town

Things to do before you leave:

- Ask your veterinarian about medications and treatments if your pet suffers from carsickness
- Verify all vaccinations are current and keep those records (which are required by airlines) with you

The full checklist is available for pet owners and veterinarians by visiting:

<http://www.afterhoursassurance.com/freevetlocator.pdf>.

“Emergency preparedness, which includes knowing how to locate a clinic if immediate medical attention is needed, is key to planning travel with a pet,” said Dr. Brad Carmichael, owner of Pleasant Valley Veterinary Clinic, McMurray, PA, and CEO of On Call Solutions, provider of After Hours Assurance. “Being in unfamiliar places can lead to emergency situations where minutes can be the difference between life and death. It’s important that travelers have access to help if they require it.”

Pet travel in the United States is on the increase. According to the Travel Industry Association of America (January, 2009), 29.1 million U.S. adults say they have traveled with a pet on a trip of 50 miles or more in the past three years, and pet travel increases in the summer months when more families travel. In a PetRelocation.com survey conducted in April, 2010, 57 percent of pet owners said they planned to travel with their pets during the following three months.

About After Hours Assurance and HealthyPet Magazine

After Hours Assurance is a service of Atlanta-based On Call Solutions, LLC that connects pet owners with their veterinarian when they have an emergency concern and want medical advice from their trusted veterinarian. You can learn more about After Hours Assurance by calling (678) 580-0421 or visiting www.afterhoursassurance.com.



Launched in 1999, HealthyPet is a privately owned, independently operated company that helps veterinarians strengthen client relationships via a suite of communication, education and data analysis tools, including HealthyPet Magazine. You can learn more about HealthyPet by calling (877) 596-1919 or visiting www.healthypetmagazine.com.