

## Financial Assistance Tips for Medical Treatment for Your Pet

Does your pet need medical treatment that you cannot afford? You care about your pet and want them to get the care they need, but simply cannot afford it. **Here are 10 ideas to help you be able to help your pet:**

- Step 1: Discuss your concerns with your veterinarian. You may be able to receive a **discount or develop a payment plan.**
- Step 2: Get a second opinion about the diagnosis or the cost of the procedure. Call veterinarians in various towns as there may be different pricing.
- Step 3: Look for **local veterinary schools** or other organizations that may offer low-cost animal health clinics (e.g. **VetSOS**). Your local humane society may be able to tell you about these groups.
- Step 4: Apply for **CareCredit**, a credit card designed to help with health expenses for people and their pets.
- Step 5: Talk with family and friends to see if they or someone they know can help. Use social networking (e.g. Facebook) to distribute your appeal to many people.
- Step 6: **Raise money in “small” ways** like a yard sale, selling items on ebay, babysitting, or petsitting. These “small” dollars can add up quickly.
- Step 7: If you have a purebred dog, look for **breed-specific assistance programs.** In addition, breeders may assist with treatment or reimbursement with the animals they sold (check your contract for details).
- Step 8: If you bought your animal from a breeder, contact them for possible financial assistance. Also, check to see if your state has a “**Puppy Lemon Law**” or a similar law.
- Step 9: If you have a service animal, check for **special resources** designated for service animals.
- Step 10: If your dog has a specific diagnosis (e.g. cancer, diabetes, etc), look for **disease-specific resources.**

Here's a great article published by HSUS (The Humane Society of the United States) called *Having Trouble Affording Veterinary Care?*

[http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble\\_affording\\_veterinary\\_care.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble_affording_veterinary_care.html)

- **discount or develop a payment plan**  
[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_5189054\\_financial-pet-surgery.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_5189054_financial-pet-surgery.html)
- **Get a second opinion**  
<http://www.vetlocator.com/dailypaws/tag/veterinary-second-opinions>
- **local veterinary schools**  
[http://www.aavmc.org/students\\_admissions/vet\\_schools.htm](http://www.aavmc.org/students_admissions/vet_schools.htm)
- **VetSOS**  
<http://www.vetsos.org/>
- **CareCredit**  
[www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com)
- **your appeal**  
<http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/pdf/fundraisingforferals.pdf>
- **raise money in “small” ways**  
<http://www.over50web.net/make-money/home-business-for-seniors/>
- **organizations that help people who are seniors or disabled**  
seniors:  
[http://www.google.com/Top/Society/People/Generations\\_and\\_Age\\_Groups/Seniors/Organizations/](http://www.google.com/Top/Society/People/Generations_and_Age_Groups/Seniors/Organizations/)  
  
disabled: <http://www.access-board.gov/links/disability.htm>
- **breed-specific assistance programs**  
[http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble\\_affording\\_veterinary\\_care.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/trouble_affording_veterinary_care.html)
- **“Puppy Lemon Law”**  
<http://www.malteseonly.com/lemon.html>
- **special service animal resources**  
<http://www.workinglikedogs.com/service-dog-resources/>
- **disease-specific resources**  
<http://landofpuregold.com/cancer/financial.htm>