



SAMPLE COMPASSIONATE CARE FUND PROTOCOL

- In most cases, the veterinarian will identify potential recipients at intake.
- The doctor will file the initial application with the compassionate care fund reviewer.
- The reviewer notifies the client and the doctor of eligibility after an award is approved.

Criteria

- Pet suffers from an illness or injury with reasonable expectation of recovery and good long-term management. For example:
 - Blocked cats (first episode; or second or third episode to contribute to perineal urethrostomy)
 - Pets suffering wounds, lacerations, fractures, and burns
 - Pets suffering hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
 - Patients requiring emergency surgeries: foreign body, non-elective cesarean section, non-complicated gastric dilatation with volvulus
 - Pets suffering toxicities with good prognosis, such as permethrin and anticoagulant rodenticide
 - Patients requiring other corrective surgeries with good prognosis, such as patent ductus arteriosus, fragmented coronoid process, and anterior cruciate ligament
 - Pets hit by a car and requiring subsequent treatment considered on a case-by-case basis
 - Pets requiring treatment under other medical circumstances considered on a case-by-case basis and require committee approval
- Routine elective procedures are not eligible.
- Costs toward palliative measures or cases with poor prognosis, such as

end-of-life care, chemotherapy, tumor debulking, and abdominocentesis for hemoabdomen due to hemangiosarcoma, are not routinely eligible except under special circumstances.

- Surrendered or stray animals that meet the above criteria are eligible for initial stabilization, provided a group or individual is identified to sponsor the animal for future adoption or placement in a reasonable time. More definitive care is subject to committee approval.
- Wildlife: Animals that can be stabilized for transfer to rehabilitation facilities or individuals, limited to animals with good potential for being released. Exceptions can be granted.

Financial need

- Funds can cover up to 50% or \$500, whichever is less. Awards are based on available funds each quarter.
- Pet owners are eligible for one episode per family per calendar year.
- Documentation of financial need:
 - Pet owner enrolled in Medicaid, WIC, or other public assistance programs
 - Person receiving unemployment or laid off
 - Senior citizen on fixed income
 - College student
 - Note: Efforts must be made to obtain credit from third-party payment plans. Pet owners are eligible if they were declined or

their need exceeds credit limit granted by lenders.

- Services must be rendered at ABC Animal Hospital, and funds are non-transferable.

Criteria that overrides financial need

- Owner is ill, disabled, or recovering from major medical care
- Owner's immediate family member is ill, disabled, or recovering from major medical care
- Other family situation presents temporary hardship, such as loss of home, death in family, natural disaster, or abusive situation, considered on a case-by-case basis
- Special consideration for service or therapy animals
- Special significance of human-animal bond may override financial and illness or injury criteria, considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, a pet with a prognosis that remains unknown, but the patient is the special pet of a disabled child
- Owner should have a strong bond with the animal and the ability to act as a responsible owner

Stipulations

- By accepting award, owner consents to release photo of the patient, the pet's first name, and a description of the pet's care to the compassionate care fund for educational and fundraising purposes.