

HORSE CART SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

CHARLIE'S FUND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

If you think you will need financial help, now is the time to see if you qualify

Horse Cart wants to help with your pet problems if we possibly can, regardless of your financial situation. We try to balance the assistance that we offer with the substantial operating costs of our hospital. Because our resources are limited, we ask that those who need financial assistance carefully read the following explanation of our program.

You will receive an estimate from the doctor after a complete exam and history are done at your first visit. If you are unable to cover the costs detailed, please inform us and we will work with you to make the necessary financial arrangement. For new clients with pets that require hospitalization, a deposit will be required unless you qualify for one of our plans. Understand that any estimate is by its nature preliminary, and is very likely to change as we learn more about what is wrong and what needs to be done to find a cure if we possibly can. We will call you as that process evolves and inform you that the bill will be larger than thought.

We can provide aid in basically three ways depending on your level of need. The process is simple – just bring us proof of your personal situation at your first visit, and in some cases fill out some forms. Proof of your financial situation is sometimes required depending on individual circumstances.

Level 1 Care: Anyone who can bring proof of public assistance through one or more of the many Federal or Washington State programs to help those in severe financial distress qualifies for our Level 1 Care Program. Acceptable programs are detailed in the accompanying Documentation Requirements information sheet.

Level 2 Care: This assistance is available to those who are working and unable to qualify for public assistance, yet still have trouble paying for food, rent, utility bills, health care bills etc. For people in this situation, there is little money to pay for pet care even when your beloved critter is critically ill. This is the most difficult situation for us in terms of qualifying people for help. You will need to complete the Horse Cart Assistance Application, as well as sign a consent form for a background check. That form asks you to fill us in on your general situation, family information, monthly budget and an employer whom we can call to verify your wage/salary information.

Level 3 Care: This plan is for people who are doing reasonably well financially but are unable to pay a major medical or surgical bill at the time of discharge. In that case, we can help by splitting the payments into thirds. You must be prepared to pay one third of the total bill at the time of discharge, the next third a maximum of 30 days later and the final third within 30 days after that. In order for us to give that form of assistance, you must have a verifiable checking account or debit/credit card that will be run at the time of discharge with your first one third payment.

You will be required to sign an agreement that details the payment program and indicates you want to participate before you leave after the initial exam. We understand that this program will not work for everyone, and if that's the case we wish you the absolute best in finding care elsewhere.