If You Can’t Afford a Pet You Shouldn’t Have One

• 29 million pets living in homes on SNAP
• ¾ of people can’t afford $400 unexpected bill
• One out of four households has experienced a barrier to care in last two years.

80% said they consider pet part of their family.

Money Doesn’t Equate To Love

Time to care for both ends of the leash

Top Two Reasons for Surrender

1. Housing

2. Cost

• Households with lower incomes tend to have more than 1 pet*

• Households under $50k more likely to surrender a pet*

*ASPCA study

8 year old Blue had pyometra. Her owner couldn’t afford $1800 quote because she lost her job due to COVID19 and had zero income for months
Underserved Communities

In 2019, one in seven counties (500+ out of the total 3,400 counties) throughout the U.S. were underserved by a veterinarian. *(Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture)*

Imagine Safety Net Partnerships in Every Community

One Health Partnerships and Safety Nets

- shelter intervention at time of surrender via a hotline AND preventative outreach and partnerships
- private practices providing care, easy payment plans, medical funds
- human health care providers referrals and support
Open Door Veterinary Care and Community Pet Care

We believe all pets & people should have access to veterinary care.

Why Pet Owners Need Payment Plans: Illiquidity vs. Insolvency

Illicit: pet owner has future income stream and enough assets to pay off debts, but doesn’t have all the cash right now. These individuals are creditworthy.

Insolvent: pet owner has debts larger than income or lacks an income stream altogether. These individuals require charitable assistance (“angel funds”) and/or subsidies (AlignCare.)

Illicit clients can be helped by in-house installment payment plans (pay over time.)


Shared from Vetbilling.com
Incremental Care and Financial Options

Meeting people where they are at today.

Will running that test will change course of treatment?

Treating a symptom before running a diagnostic

Scripting generic medicine

Working within a budget and then finding partnerships for payment plans through Vetbilling.com, non profit medical fund, our Stay Together Fund
Partnership - Non Profit

Asheville Humane Community Solutions:
350 calls a month for safety net. 150 for vet assistance calls.
Pay $150 towards vet costs with Open Door Partnerships with homelessness coalitions, Housing Authority, Veterans Association, Align Care

What Can You Do

Set up medical fund
- Determine services covered
- Amount
- Process
- Partnerships with Veterinary clinics
Uber Pilot

- an Uber app for transportation to vets and to shelters to adopt
- Pet friendly drivers
- If not tech savvy, organization books and covers entire trip
- Or can pay for a portion of trip and user downloads a coupon for booking their trip

Integrating Social Workers

Partnering with OSU, UT, BGSU
Social Worker going for Masters
Grief counseling
Getting Pet Support Guide to social workers
Getting pet question on social worker questionnaire and homeless census
Training for staff on dealing with diffusing clients and self
What Can You Do?

Build Relationship with Human Health Care
• Reach out about services
• Get pet data on questionnaire
• Cross Train
• Set up Social Work Internship

What Can You Do?

Create a Pet Resource Guide
Get the word out beyond animal welfare

Need help with your pet?

Behavior Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers online advice in English and Spanish.

Financial Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers information about services in your area.

Housing Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers information about services in your area.

Medical & Rehoming Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers information about services in your area.

Legal Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers information about legal services.

Other Assistance
The PetHelpLine offers information about other assistance.

Assistance with Pet Food
The PetHelpLine offers information about pet food assistance.

Reach Out
Friends, family, neighbors, and community partners can also help find services for you.

We want to keep families together.

PetHelpLine is a project of The SPCA for Monterey County.

Serving pet owners nationwide since 2003.

www.spca4monterey.org

1-800-PetHelpLine (738-4357)

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

9/23/20
Partnerships--Human

- Basic vet care access via transport, pop up clinics in underserved areas at community centers, senior housing, Section 8 Housing, where human health providers deliver health care
- Helping renters get vaccines and sp/n to show proof to landlords

HARP

Hope and Recovery Pet (HARP) Program
Emotional Support Animal Placement
Collaboration between ProMedica, the Toledo Humane Society, University of Toledo and Community Pet Care.
HARP connects adults referred by area mental health providers with pets to improve the lives of both.

Robert Samberg, a war veteran who lives with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, has experienced a significantly changed outlook on life thanks to his pet, Kitty.