

## Where can I get help with vet bills?

### Getting help in an emergency

If your pet suddenly becomes very sick or gets seriously injured and you simply do not have the money to pay for veterinary treatment on the spot, you must take your animal to the vets anyway. Veterinary surgeons are obliged, as part of their registration and the pledges that they made upon training and qualifying to become a vet, to provide emergency treatment to a minimum level that will ease pain and suffering. This may mean administering treatment to a very basic level for a short period until an alternative can be decided upon, or by euthanizing a seriously injured animal that is suffering without respite.

You should always be upfront and honest with your veterinary surgeon about your ability to pay for your pet's treatment. Veterinary surgeons are animal lovers, but they are not charities, and they are only obliged to provide basic, short-term care for a suffering pet, not to bankroll ongoing treatments. If you are honest with your vet in times of need, you may well find that they are more than willing to work out a budget and repayment scheme such as a weekly or monthly plan, with you for extended treatment or be able to point you in the direction of charities and organisations that can help to fund the needed treatments.

### Organisations that may help to cover the cost of veterinary care

There are several national organisations that provide support and funding or veterinary help to pet owners in genuine financial difficulties, and often various small independent local operations as well. Most organisations have very firmly set criteria as to their eligibility process, who they can help and to what extent.

**ACT-Canberra pet Rescue** - helps with unexpected vet bills for disadvantaged pet owners. Their aim is to avoid suffering, euthanasia or surrender of beloved family pets for economic reasons. Applications to the fund can be made online by the treating vet clinic. <https://www.canberrapetrescue.org.au/subsidised-vet-services>

**NSW-RSPCA NSW**- Our Aged Care program aims to keep pets and their elderly owners happy, healthy and together in their own homes for as long as possible. To do this, we assist elderly pet owners over the age of 65, Indigenous pet owners over the age of 50 and palliative care patients of any age. Services our Aged Care program offers include: temporary foster accommodation and/or

emergency pet boarding if the owner requires medical treatment, respite or other assistance, assistance with veterinary treatment, home visits to assist the elderly with basic pet care, assistance with pet grooming and assistance with transport to and from the local veterinarian. <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/working-in-communities/community-aged-care-program>

**SA- Safe Pets Safe Families** - Through a no-interest loan, the Vet Crisis fund provides a helping hand to individuals and families on low incomes to ensure their beloved pets still have success to the vital health care they require in times of crisis <https://safepetssafefamilies.org.au/>

**Queensland- Animal Welfare League Queensland** - was the first, and remains to be the only, organisation in Queensland to open a Community Veterinary Clinic to the public. This unique service makes essential vet care accessible to all pet owners including those previously unable to afford treatment for their pets. <https://www.awlqld.com.au/>

**Tasmania-Hobart Community Veterinary Hospital** - to ensure sick and injured animals have access to quality veterinary care we have various financial assistance schemes to help our clients with their veterinary bills. <https://www.hobartcommunityvetclinic.com.au/financial-assistance>

**Victoria- Pet Medical Crisis** - Pensioners who are struggling financially have the opportunity to give their loved pet the best chance of survival when veterinary care is needed. [Pet Medical Crisis - Helping With Vet Bills](#)

**WA-Perth Vet Bill Assistance Inc** - help pets that are experiencing illness or injury who are being left untreated due to their owners being unfinancial to get the medical attention that is required to relieve them of pain and suffering. <https://www.perthvetbillassistance.com/>