

Veterinary Care Resources in Hampton Roads

Supporting Pet Owners and the Animals Who Love Them

Unexpected veterinary costs can be overwhelming, but help is available. These Hampton Roads-based organizations are committed to keeping pets with their families by offering financial assistance and support during times of crisis.

Pennies for Paws

Website: pennies-for-paws.org

Mission:

Pennies for Paws exists to be a resource for those who work in **public animal shelters, private animal organizations, and individual pet owners or caregivers**, while also **educating the community** on the evolving needs and growth of animal welfare.

How to Apply:

Visit their website to complete the **online assistance application** and provide a vet estimate and proof of financial need.

Paws in Need VA

Website: pawsinneedva.com

Mission:

Paws in Need works to **bridge the gap** when pets face **life-saving emergencies** their owners can't afford without help.

What They Offer:

The primary goal of our emergency fund is to help owners in a financial bind preventing their pet from receiving medical care. Our fund is not to be used for routine care such as vaccines, grooming, nail trims, or wellness visits. The purpose of this fund is to assist pet owners who are needing funds for life saving procedures and immediate urgent care for their pets. We ask anyone needing assistance to apply below. Applications will be reviewed before a decision is made.

****Priority is based on the pet's need, availability of funds, and by the approval of our board members****

How to Apply:

Submit an application via their website, including a detailed vet estimate and a short explanation of your current situation.

ART Animals (Animal Resources of Tidewater)

Website: artanimals.org

Mission:

ART's Medical Assistance program is designed to help families keep their pets healthy and out of the

shelter when going through a difficult time financially. For qualifying applicants, we may assist with routine care, some diagnostic tests and surgeries. The prognosis must be favorable to receive assistance. This is a one time help with a pet's need. We cannot provide long term health care. **We require that all healthy dogs and cats in the family be spayed or neutered. If not altered we will schedule in the near future. (If necessary financial aid is given for spay/neuter). Please do not apply if you will not allow for your pets to be altered.**

Things you should know before applying:

- You must apply for care credit at the vet office or www.carecredit.com.
- We do not pay for vet care already received.
- We require that all dogs and cats in the family be spayed or neutered. If not altered we will schedule in the near future.
- Funding limits us to helping one individual or family to one time only assistance.
- Your pet must have a favorable prognosis for us to contribute or fund the surgery.
- Our budget does not allow for us to fund expensive testing such as MRI and CT scans.
- Funding surgeries over \$1,000 is a huge consideration for our organization. If this is your situation you may go ahead and apply, but please also be working in earnest to seek additional funding sources.
- We may assist with filling medications one time only.
- For diabetes and cushings /addisons we may be able to help with the testing and provide initial medication. The applicant will be responsible for the future tests and medication refills.
- We do not provide 6 months heartworm and flea prevention. We may assist with the test and one month medication. You may purchase heartworm pills one month at a time if necessary from the vet or clinic who gave the heartworm test.
- ART primarily serves citizens in the Hampton Roads area and outside the area, on a case by case basis.

Tips for Seeking Assistance:

- Contact your veterinarian—some offer **payment plans**, discounts, or may refer you to resources like these.
- Apply early—funds are limited and may be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Be thorough—include detailed estimates, your pet's medical needs, and supporting documents when possible.