

What to do if you can't afford your pet

Do you need help with pet food, boarding or veterinary care? Here's what to do:

Visit *pethelpfinder.org.* Search for food pantries and supplies, financially friendly veterinary services, boarding options and local animal welfare groups.

Contact local food pantries. Search nearby pantries at *foodfinder.us*. Many can provide food assistance for pets as well as people.

Talk to a veterinarian. Explain your financial limitations and ask for advice. They may be able to suggest a cost-effective treatment plan, discuss a payment plan, or refer you to a clinic or nearby veterinary college with lower fees.

Contact local animal welfare groups. Many organizations offer pet food assistance or temporary housing for pets while their owners get back on their feet, and some have low-cost clinics.

Learn more at humaneworld.org/affordpet.

Research other options

- *Petsofthehomeless.org* has a database of pet assistance organizations, as well as case managers who can advise you.
- *Banfieldfoundation.org* has lists of state and national resources (click on the Resources tab).
- *Waggle.org* helps you raise funds for pets in need of emergency care and pays veterinarians directly.
- *Carecredit.com* offers credit cards specifically for health care expenses, including pet care. Ask your veterinarian if they accept CareCredit. (Read the repayment terms carefully to avoid triggering an expensive, retroactive interest fee.)
- *Scratchpay.com* offers payment plan options for veterinary and other health-related services. Ask your veterinarian if they accept Scratchpay.
- *Nextdoor.com* can connect you with neighbors who may have pet food to spare.