

Increasing Access to Veterinary Care

Ideas for Veterinary Clinics/Hospitals

- Create a hospital-administered financial assistance fund
 - Budget funds annually to help pets/clients in need
 - Determine criteria for which these funds will be distributed and ensure that all staff are familiar with them
 - Put a donation box on your reception desk to clients can donate
 - Ask crematory companies you work with to donate to the fund

- Increase payment options available in your practice
 - Offer financing options (CareCredit, ScratchPay)
 - Offer payment plans (in-house; VetBilling.com)

- Consider providing a spectrum of care or incremental care options for your clients in need. View the HSVMA Access to Care webinars for more information and ideas on this practice option.
 - https://www.hsvma.org/webinar_accesstocare

- Promote and accept pet insurance

- Offer telemedicine/telehealth services as a way to supplement services and provide low-cost care.
 - View the HSVMA webinar for more information - [www.hsvma.org/veterinary telemedicine webinar](http://www.hsvma.org/veterinary_telemedicine_webinar)

- Enroll in a 501c3 umbrella group that can accept donations for financially-limited clients or stray animals and then “pay” the practice by taking money out of the fund. Some options to consider:
 - American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) Veterinary Care Charitable Fund – www.vccfund.org
 - Veterinary Care Foundation – www.veterinarycarefoundation.org
 - Some state VMAs have these types of funds available for their members

- Become an AlignCare clinic site. This program is available in select communities and partners social service providers with veterinary providers to increase access to care. The veterinary service provider offers services at a rate below market to approved families and submits an invoice for direct payment of the subsidy from the AlignCare Fund <https://pphe.utk.edu/aligncare/>
- Encourage clients to pursue crowdfunding options such as waggie.org, GoFundMe®
- Provide clients with a list of resources to solicit donations from nonprofit groups. Those can include:
 - Local rescue groups and shelters
 - National groups that provide financial assistance for veterinary care for families in need (i.e. www.redrover.org or www.browndogfoundation.org)
 - Breed-specific groups that provide assistance for certain breeds (www.redrover.org/resource/national-organizations-with-assistance-programs-dog-breed-specific/)
 - Disease-specific groups that provide assistance for animals with certain diseases/conditions. For example (i.e. <https://wagglefoundation.org/riedelcody/> for animals with cancer)
- Here are some good websites to help you start developing your list of resources to share with clients:
 - Red Rover: <https://redrover.org/resource/help/>
 - Speaking for Spot - <http://speakingforspot.com/index.php?p=Financial-Assistance-for-Veterinary-Care>
 - Humane Society of the United States: <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet>