



ELDERPET

Information About ElderPet for Social Service and Care Providers

ElderPet strives to facilitate the human-animal bond by providing various services to low income elders, people with disabilities, and hospice families having difficulty. The physical services are provided in the Strafford and Rockingham County areas only; consultations are provided statewide.

Transportation:

ElderPet has volunteers who will provide scheduled pet-related transportation, e.g. to veterinary offices, groomers etc. for those who have no other recourse. This is at no cost to low income individuals and for a fee to others.

Pet Food Assistance:

ElderPet provides limited pet food assistance to low income elders and people with disabilities. We are only able to do this in the Strafford and Seacoast Rockingham County areas. Pet food may be picked up at UNH or we can deliver. Because of our limited resources, we can only provide to responsible homes with no more than three pets who have been spayed/neutered. We do have an application form (attached) where the owner must prove that they are financially qualified. We welcome clients who are working with social service and/or care providers because they can assist the client in filling out the forms and help monitor the pet in the home. We try to provide pet food every 4-6 weeks. We may not be able to bring all the food that the client needs, but we can help.

It should be noted that area humane societies are also able to provide pet food assistance and may also be able to help with spaying and neutering. Please check their website or call them for information.

Pet Grooming:

Well behaved and vaccinated pets may be groomed by the Thompson School Grooming Shop by appointment for a very reduced fee. Appointments may be made by calling the shop at 603-862-1144 and speaking to Allison Powers. Grooming will be done by grooming students.

More complicated grooming beyond the financial ability of the owner may sometimes be arranged. For this service (e.g. matted cats) contact ElderPet at jerilee.zezula@unh.edu or 603-767-6856.

Short Term Pet Care:

If a pet owner becomes unexpectedly ill and must leave a pet at home, ElderPet can sometimes provide short term care. The best situation is, if you as a professional are working with a pet-owning client, please discuss this situation ahead of time so that a friend or relative may be contacted should the situation arise. Have the client complete the Durable Power of Attorney for Pet Care found at www.elderpet.org/printinfo.html

Pet Medication Assistance:

Sometimes long term pet medications can be quite expensive for low income individuals. Usually the client's veterinarian will work with the client if they are aware of the financial circumstances. If that is not possible, ElderPet will strive to work with the client and veterinarian to provide the medication for the client. This is done on an individual case basis and the client should be encouraged to work with his/her veterinarian before consulting ElderPet.

Emergency Veterinary Care Assistance:

Occasionally pets require medical attention that is unexpected and has not been budgeted for. ElderPet has a small fund to provide no-interest loans to the client in this situation. (Routine care, i.e. spays, neuters, vaccines, routine exams, is not covered as that is an expense that can be budgeted.) ElderPet, with consultation, pays the veterinarian and the client then pays ElderPet a predetermined amount monthly until the debt is paid. This requires a legal contract and a reference from a social service or care provider.

Consultations:

Once in a while a human service provider comes across a situation in a home involving a pet. It could be related to pet care or pet behavior or other situations. ElderPet will be happy to consult with you confidentially about the situation to come to an understanding or successful conclusion.

To contact ElderPet for services:

Jerilee.zezula@unh.edu

603-767-6856