

VETERINARIANS

Do you own or work at a veterinary clinic, and want to help make animal companion care accessible to low income and in-crisis families?

1 in 7 households in Ontario are both low-income and have a pet, and YOU can help ensure these families have access to the veterinary care they need. Any step, no matter how small, makes you part of the greater effort to solve this problem. Here are some simple ways to be part of the solution:

1. Refer any eligible clients to PAWS' programs if they are struggling to cover their pet's bills and especially if they feel their only option is surrender or euthanasia. The [application process](#) can be daunting but we can help you or your client work through it. Email your question about an application to us at <mailto:apply@pawscanada.ca>. All enquiries are handled confidentially.
2. Offer deferred payment or installment payment options for those who cannot cover a large bill upfront.
3. Educate your clients about the cost benefits of preventative care. [Example](#)
4. Inform your clients of the existence and potential help of pet insurance.
5. Create your own pet food bank at your clinic, for use by your clients and the public.
6. Provide appointments, prescriptions and prescription food at a discount to struggling families or those with chronically ill pets.
7. Host 'preventative care days', where clients can bring their pet in for a basic wellness check, vaccines or other routine procedures at a reduced cost. Advertise these days to the community at large so that those without a veterinary can attend.
8. Develop a community outreach program to assist struggling pet owners in your community on a wider scale.
9. Donate or fundraise for pet food banks, PAWS, the Farley Foundation and other groups dedicated to improving access to veterinary services.
10. Start your own in-house charitable fund to assist struggling families cover the unexpected costs of emergency care.

We at PAWS work with multiple veterinary clinics across Ontario to ensure that everyone can access the veterinary services they need. If you'd like to work with us or learn more, please email us at outreach@pawscanada.ca.