

## PAWS Programs and Application Criteria

### Essential Medical Care

This program offers subsidies to members of the public struggling to cover the cost of required, medically-necessary veterinary care for their animals, including spay, neuter, vaccinations and veterinary-recommended essential medical care for quality of life of the animal such as:

- Spays and Neuters, Vaccinations, Parasite treatment
- Diagnostic tests required to identify and treat medical issues
- Emergency prescriptions, surgeries and veterinarian-recommended medical treatments

### Preparation for Safety

Spay/neuter, up-to-date vaccinations and a base level of stable health are a requirement for any animal entering a shelter, foster care or a kennel. This program enables companion animals to be housed while their owners are in crisis (seeking refuge from abuse; temporarily homeless, hospitalized for physical or mental care...) subsidizing prerequisite veterinarian care such as:

- Spays, Neuters, Vaccinations, Parasite treatment, Essential medical care

We are open to requests from community shelters, hospitals, and agencies dealing with people in crisis, whose companion animals need veterinary care. Application criteria is outlined below.

### PAWS Subsidy Allowances

- Every applicant must contribute a minimum of \$25 towards the cost of care for each animal.
- PAWS will subsidize up to \$250 per animal for spay, neuter, vaccinations, parasite treatment.
- PAWS will subsidize up to \$400 for diagnostics and more involved medical procedures.
- Maximum of two animals per household per year can receive subsidies.
- All allowances are paid directly to the veterinary clinic upon receipt of invoice. Must be approved in advance. No reimbursements for prior care.

*PAWS cannot guarantee subsidy for any new application. We handle each request with care and urgency. Our limited funding is often targeted for specific regions or cities by donors.*

### Application Criteria

Open to members of the public directly or via request from their veterinary clinic or community agency. To qualify for a subsidy every applicant must meet our criteria, shown below. All applicants must complete an [application form](#).

**In an emergency** - a veterinary clinic can contact PAWS directly ([apply@pawscanada.ca](mailto:apply@pawscanada.ca)) for quick review and confirmation. A form and proof of qualification must follow within 24 hrs.

**Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- **Low Income** as defined by LICO (chart below). Must be able to provide recent copy of payments, clearly showing applicant's name and address, including but not limited to:
  - Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
  - Ontario Disability Support Payment (ODSP)
  - Canada Pension Plan Disability Payment (CPP Disability)
  - Ontario Works Program (OWP)
  - Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) *(for those whose main residence is neither at university or with their parents, or who are aged 25 and over)*
- **Person in-crisis:** homeless, fleeing violence, in medical crisis (including mental, addiction), possibly requiring temporary care in a treatment facility or shelter.

**LICO - Low Income Cutoff Criteria 2023** (updated annually based on CRA's LICO Index)

<b>Size of Family Unit (household)</b>	LICO – 12 months	LICO – 6 Months
one person	\$28,217	\$14,109
two persons	\$35,128	\$17,564
three persons	\$43,187	\$21,593
four persons	\$52,434	\$26,217
five persons	\$59,470	\$29,735
six persons	\$67,073	\$33,536
seven persons	\$74,675	\$37,337
Eight + add this per person	\$7,602	\$3,801

*Community agencies & Veterinary clinics may apply on behalf of clients who meet criteria.*

**Notes**

- If your circumstances are not covered above, but you wish to make a case for an exception to help keep a companion animal safe and with its family, email us at [apply@pawscanada.ca](mailto:apply@pawscanada.ca).
- Whilst PAWS is open to applications for all types of companion animals, the relative expense of veterinary care for exotic pets will mean that our per animal allowances fall far short.
- We cannot guarantee a subsidy for any animal. Our allowances will seldom cover all costs.
- Do your own research to find the right veterinarian clinic for your companion animal!

**Not Covered by PAWS' Programs**

1. Medically unnecessary procedures not for the benefit of the animal, eg declaw, tail dock, etc.
2. Procedures that are not veterinarian-recommended for the animal's quality of life.
3. Applications from breeders or anyone convicted of animal cruelty.