



Good Neighbor Fund

Provided by Goochland Pet Lovers

About the Good Neighbor Fund

Goochland Pet Lovers (GPL), a 501(c)3 located in Goochland County, established the Good Neighbor Fund in September 2020, and launched the corresponding program in February 2021. This program was formed to strengthen families and individuals by offering assistance and coordinating low/no-cost vet care to allow families to keep their pets healthy and in their homes.

The Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) provides need-based financial assistance for preventive and minor/basic pet care for Goochland residents who reside at up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Program Initiatives and Requirements

- To assist Goochland residents, who reside at an income level of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, with funding for preventive and basic/minor pet care.
- Goochland residents who do not meet the eligibility requirements may be served from the GNF upon recommendation/referral by the Animal Protection Director and approval by the GNF Committee.
- To provide preventive and minor/basic pet care for up to two (2) pets per family per year unless special circumstances warrant, and additional funding is recommended by the Animal Protection Director and approved by GNF Committee.
- Annual funding limit per dog is \$350.
- Annual funding limit per cat is \$200.
- Funding is to be used for preventive and minor/basic care and not emergency medical care or food. (Food may be obtained from the Food Pantry at GoochlandCares.)
- Special consideration may be given to residents who do not qualify based on income and who need to have a dog or cat spayed/neutered. These residents may apply for funds for spay/neuter only and the GNF Committee may approve funds for the procedure.
- Dogs and cats involved in domestic abuse cases are eligible for funds upon recommendation by the Animal Protection Director and approval by the GNF Committee.
- The GNF program manager or designee will be available on each Tuesday following the second Saturday of the month to meet with potential clients at the shelter and assist with the application process.
- Preventive and minor/basic pet care will be coordinated with pre-arranged partners. This may include mobile vet services, other non-profits, or veterinary practices in Goochland and surrounding counties.

- Transportation may be available by GPL volunteers to transport the animal to the appointment as needed.
- Goochland residents who are served by Feedmore's Meals on Wheels may be eligible for assistance including transportation of the animal to an appointment. Residents who qualify for Meals on Wheels and who do not qualify for the GNF may be served with transportation services only to take a pet to a scheduled pet appointment.

Eligibility

The Good Neighbor Fund Committee will use the following eligibility requirements to fund as many Goochland residents as possible on a first come first served basis:

- Client must be a Goochland resident (except in the case of Domestic Abuse).
- Client must provide proof of residency using a utility bill or other means deemed appropriate by the GNF Committee.
- Client's income level is up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Clients seeking funding must provide proof of income. Resident to provide a Determination Letter from Goochland Social Services indicating they meet the requirement of residing at up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. If this is not obtainable, the GNF Committee may approve eligibility using a tax return or other means deemed appropriate by the Committee.
- Clients must prove ownership of the dog or cat by providing a copy of the adoption papers, previous vet records, county dog license, or other means as deemed appropriate by the GNF Committee.
- Pet is required to be spayed/neutered. If the animal has not been previously altered, the client must agree to have the procedure performed unless the requirement is waived by a licensed veterinarian. GNF to provide funding.
- Dog Licenses are required. Licensing fee may be paid by the GNF if needed.
- Program is restricted to pet dogs and cats only. Animal must be able to be handled by the vet staff and privately owned. No feral cats or livestock animals are eligible for funding.
- Limit to two (2) pets per family per year unless additional funding is recommended by the Animal Protection Director and approved by the GNF Committee.
- The Animal Protection Director has the authority to override any eligibility requirements and obtain approval by the GNF Committee for funding or services.
- Clients must qualify annually for the program.
- Clients must sign a Consent to Treatment and Liability Waiver Agreement prior to any treatment or service.
- Clients must have dogs on a secure collar and leash or in a secure carrier and cats in a secure carrier prior to transport and vet visit. If clients do not have collars, leashes or carriers, GNF will provide them if available.

Covered Expenses

The Good Neighbor Fund may provide funding for the following services:

- Spay/Neuter
- Flea/Tick Prevention
- Cat: Distemper/Upper Respiratory and Rabies Vaccination
- Dog: DH(L)PP and Rabies Vaccination
- Puppies are eligible for at least two vet visits until they reach 16 weeks of age
- Medical Grooming
- Deworming
- Minor medical issues
- Dog License
- Implant Microchip (Paid for through the GPL Microchip Fund)
- Collar, leash, and/or carrier as needed and available
- Heartworm Test/Prevention – may be added in Phase II
- Heartworm Treatment – may be added in Phase III

Expenses Not Covered

The Good Neighbor Fund will NOT provide funding for the following services:

- Emergency Pet Care
- Food or basic pet supplies
- Any vet care already performed, or any vet bills already paid
- Major medical or surgery procedures

Requesting Financial Assistance and Approval Process

The Good Neighbor Fund Committee consists of GPL Board members and volunteers and shall be no less than three members and no more than five and will maintain an odd number of members. Members of the GNF Committee are approved by the GPL Board of Directors. GNF Committee members shall serve two-year terms and may serve consecutive terms indefinitely. Time commitment commensurate with the number of applications.

- Goochland residents seeking assistance must complete an application which includes proof of residency, income, and ownership.
- Completed applications will be directed to the GPL staff.
- Upon review, if the potential client meets all eligibility requirements, the application is forwarded to the GNF Committee.

- The GNF Committee will review the application and return a decision within five (5) business days of the due date for the month. This process may be done by email, phone or in person.
- The GPL staff member or a GNF Committee member will notify the client of the Committee's determination.
- If approved, the GNF Committee determines what care is needed and matches the services needed with one of the program partners and schedules the appropriate services while coordinating with the client.
- The Good Neighbor Fund works with several partners to provide care. The best partner for the animal will be determined and an appointment will be set at GPL's discretion.
- If the resident is unable to travel to the appointment, the Good Neighbor Fund will make every effort to get a volunteer who will transport the animal for the resident.
- The client must sign a Consent for Treatment and Liability Waiver Agreement prior to transport, or any treatment or service is performed.
- The Good Neighbor Fund will disburse the approved funds directly to the veterinary practice who performed the services.
- Invoices will be directed to the GNF staff for review and approval. GPL's financial policies will be followed for the approval and payment process.

Volunteers

Goochland Pet Lovers will solicit volunteers to:

- Drive animals to vet appointments as needed which includes participants of Meals on Wheels who do not qualify for funding from the GNF.
- Assist Capital Home Vet Care as requested/needed.
- Promote the program throughout Goochland County.

Additional Information

- The Good Neighbor Fund does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.
- The Good Neighbor Fund reserves the right to deny funding to anyone for any reason.
- Depending on the level of funding and the number of appointments available, some preventive care may have to be scheduled further out than would otherwise be advisable.
- No funds are ever given directly to individuals.
- Any misrepresentation or fraud on the Application will result in denial of a request and barring from the program in the future. Further, any funds obtained through fraud or misrepresentation must be repaid to the Good Neighbor Fund in full.

Restricted donations that are received by Goochland Pet Lovers will be added to this fund accordingly. A fund balance will be provided to the Board of Directors at each board meeting.

Established 2/1/2021