



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 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 and Powhatan residents who live at or below 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 funding is available 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 without being a Goochland resident.
- Applications will be taken by phone only. No paperwork will be sent in prior to the scheduled clinic.
- Preventive and minor/basic pet care will be coordinated and provided at the GPL FLAG Spay & Neuter Clinic.

- Transportation may be available by GPL volunteers to transport the animal to the appointment as needed.
- Goochland and Powhatan 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 vet 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 or Powhatan resident (except in the case of Domestic Abuse).
- Client must provide proof of residency by presenting a Driver's License or a utility bill at clinic check-in.
- Client's income level is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Client will sign a statement on the Application confirming they meet this income level requirement.
- Clients must own the dog or cat. If available, copies of adoption papers, previous vet records, or county dog license should be brought to the clinic. Sometimes all that will be provided is a detailed account of how they took possession of the animal.
- 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 will be paid by the GNF.
- 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 funding is available and approved by the GNF Committee.
- The GNF Committee has the authority to override any eligibility requirements 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 animals on a secure collar and leash or 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 by phone with the Program Coordinator.
- The Program Coordinator will present the list of clients for the next scheduled clinic to the GNF Committee to discuss any policy exceptions.
- Applications received after noon on Friday the week before the scheduled second Saturday of the month Clinic will be scheduled for the next month's Clinic.

- All clients will be seen by the GPL FLAG Spay & Neuter Clinic and then additional services will be scheduled as needed, such as spay/neuter.
- 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 GNF Disclosure of Clinic Hours of Operation and Staffing and a GNF Medical Consent and Liability Release Form 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 with the monthly Clinics.
- Promote the program throughout Goochland and Powhatan Counties.

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.

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