



The **Fonzie Foundation** provides financial assistance grants so pet caregivers can care for animals who need urgent veterinary care. Economic hardships can prevent people from caring for the animals they love. When circumstances threaten the bonds between people and their pets, the **Fonzie Foundation** is there to help.

The goal of the foundation is to help animals that need immediate veterinary care to survive. The typical grant is \$100 to \$200. Decisions are based upon several factors, including: medical urgency, financial need, available funding and eligibility. Once an application is submitted, you can expect to receive a response via e-mail or by phone within one to two business days.

What kind of care qualifies for support?

The animal must:

- Have a life-threatening injury or illness that requires urgent and specific treatment.
- Have a favorable prognosis.
- Be spayed or neutered (if the animal is not already spayed/neutered, please include plans for having this done when submitting the application).

The veterinary clinic must:

- Be aware of the client's financial need.
- Be willing to speak with a case manager from **Fonzie Foundation** and provide an itemized estimate upon request.
- Accept a check or credit card payment from **Fonzie Foundation**.

Fonzie Foundation cannot help if any of the following apply:

- The animal's treatment has been completed.
- The animal's medical needs are for ongoing conditions or treatments (such as diabetes or chemotherapy), testing or diagnostic work (such as X-rays, MRI or blood work), routine care (such as spay/neuter, vaccinations or annual exams).
- The injury/illness could have been prevented through standard routine care (except recently rescued animals). You are the owner of the animal and have previously received a **Fonzie Foundation** grant.
- You are an independent rescuer who has received a grant within the last 12 months.
- **Fonzie Foundation** does not fund primary care such as ear infections, teeth cleaning, spay/neuter, vaccinations and preventative care. **Fonzie Foundation** also does not provide funding for treatment of chronic diseases or medications to support lifelong ailments.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The applicant (person/group applying for a grant) must:

- Be seeking assistance for one animal in need of urgent medical care.
- Have obtained a diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan. **Fonzie Foundation** cannot pay for office exams or diagnostic testing.
- Before **Fonzie Foundation** grants can be considered as an option, pet owners must first

- apply for CareCredit if available.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Make a concerted fundraising effort, attempting to find funding through your own means and personal contacts.
- Submit a completed application.
- Provide updates, photos and video if **Fonzie Foundation** is able to help so that we can share our success stories.
- Live in the United States.

HOW TO APPLY

- Read the above purpose statement, grant eligibility requirements, and the pre-application questions carefully before applying.
- Fill out the Application and submit it via email to jodi@fonziefoundation.org

Relief Pre-Application Questions

Fonzie Foundation provides financial assistance grants and resources so pet caregivers can care for animals who need urgent veterinary care. Grants are intended to fill a small funding gap to allow treatment to occur. The typical grant is \$100 to \$200. Due to the availability of funding through donations, the program is unable to help everyone who applies. Before applying, you must have a clear diagnosis and specific treatment plan in place from a veterinarian.

Has the animal recently been seen by a veterinarian regarding this issue?

Yes No

Has the veterinarian finished the diagnostic work (x-rays, blood work, etc.) and given advice on what treatment is needed?

Yes No

Does the animal have an immediately life-threatening injury or illness that requires urgent care within the next 10 days?

Yes No

According to your veterinarian, is there a good prognosis and can treatment be completed in one visit or hospital stay?

Yes No

Has the applicant applied for Care Credit?

Yes No Not Available at Veterinary Office

Is the applicant's total household income \$50,000 or less?

Yes No

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much are your grants? **Fonzie Foundation Funds** are typically between \$100 and \$200. Grants are intended to fill a small funding gap to allow treatment to occur.

2. Do you help with existing veterinary bills? No, the program cannot help with treatment that has already been completed. **Fonzie Foundation Funds** are intended to help animals that have not yet received treatment.

3. What types of animals do you help? The program offers assistance to a variety of companion animals including, but not limited to dogs, cats, horses, birds, rabbits and guinea pigs.

4. How long does it take to get a response to my application? You can expect to receive a response via e-mail or phone within one to two business days of submitting your application. Often, but not always, we can respond within the same business day the application was submitted.

5. Can I apply if treatment is already underway? Yes, we can consider any treatment done on or after the day an application is submitted. Please do not delay treatment because you are waiting for our response. Priority goes to situations where a grant will make the difference between an animal receiving treatment and not.

6. What if my animal's treatment can't wait one or two days and the clinic wants money up front?

- Discuss with your veterinarian the minimum treatment needed to save your animal's life.
- Ask other area clinics how much they normally charge for a similar treatment. Costs can vary widely from clinic to clinic. Visit veterinarians.com for a directory of vet clinics.
- If available, apply for **CareCredit**, a credit card specifically for healthcare expenses.
- Contact local animal shelters and rescue organizations for leads to low-cost clinics and/or help with fundraising. **Petfinder.com** has a comprehensive list of rescue organizations from all over the country.
- Ask for loans from your family and friends.
- If the animal is a purebred, contact that breed's enthusiast club in your area.

fonziefoundation.org