

# Delaware Animal Welfare Low Cost and Free Service Directory

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# Horse Rescues in Delaware and Surrounding Counties

Table 1: Area Horse Rescues

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Tri-State Equine Adoption and Rescue	869 Hartly Rd. Hartly, DE 19953	<a href="http://www.tristateequine.org/">www.tristateequine.org/</a>	302 492-0492
Changing Fates Equine Rescue of Delaware	31283 Old Cabin Road Laurel, DE 19956	<a href="http://www.changingfatesequine.org/">www.changingfatesequine.org/</a>	302 339-5065
Second Chance Ranch	2436 Sandtown Rd. Felton DE 19942	<a href="http://www.secondchanceranchdeinc.com/">www.secondchanceranchdeinc.com/</a>	302 284-7463
Greystone Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation	1755 Principio Rd Rising Sun, MD 21911	<a href="http://www.greystoneequine.com/">www.greystoneequine.com/</a>	239 322-9937
Days End Farm Horse Rescue	1372 Woodbine Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797	<a href="http://www.defhr.org/">www.defhr.org/</a>	301 854-5037
Noble Hill Rescue	2002 Noble Rd Kirkwood, PA 17536	<a href="http://www.noblehillrescue.org/">www.noblehillrescue.org/</a>	717 529-2358
Lamancha Animal Rescue	855 Doe Run Road Coatesville, PA	<a href="http://www.lamanchaanimalrescue.org/">www.lamanchaanimalrescue.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:LaManchaRescue@comcast.net">LaManchaRescue@comcast.net</a>

# Pet Food Banks

Pet food banks give pet food and other supplies to people in need and are a free service offered by many area shelters.

Eligible recipients fall into two general categories:

- Pet owners who are facing financial hardship and are struggling to make ends meet.
- Good Samaritans who are caring for outdoor cats living in cat colonies.

The goal of this program is to help keep pets in their homes or in the community with the people who love them and thereby reduce the number of animals surrendered to shelters for financial reasons. Food banks are supported by donations from individuals and local businesses. The food bank stock, which may vary from day to day, typically includes canned and dry dog and cat food, cat litter, leashes, bowls, and collars.

To get help, call to find out if the pet food or supply item you need is available and make an appointment, if necessary, to come by and pick it up. Be sure to ask about restrictions they may have, so you will be sure that you qualify. You may be asked to fill out and sign a form and/or present a valid identification.

These services are provided at no cost, but donations are encouraged.

*Table 2: Delaware Pet Food Banks*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Delaware Humane Association <sup>1</sup>	701 A Street Wilmington, DE 19801	<a href="http://www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=petfoodpantry">www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=petfoodpantry</a>	302 571-0111
Delaware SPCA, Georgetown <sup>2</sup>	22918 Dupont Blvd Georgetown, DE 19947	<a href="http://www.delspca.org/delaware-spca-pet-food-pantry/">www.delspca.org/delaware-spca-pet-food-pantry/</a>	302 856-6361
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>3</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/pet-food-bank">www.faithfulfriends.us/pet-food-bank</a>	302 427-8514
First State Animal Center and SPCA <sup>4</sup>	32 Shelter Circle Camden, DE 19934	<a href="http://www.fsac-spca.org/here-for-you/#/pet-pantry/">www.fsac-spca.org/here-for-you/#/pet-pantry/</a>	302 943-6032
The Pet Project <sup>5</sup>	PO Box 992 Bear, Delaware 19701	<a href="http://www.thepetprojectde.org/kibble-kupboard.html">www.thepetprojectde.org/kibble-kupboard.html</a>	<a href="mailto:info@thepetprojectde.org">info@thepetprojectde.org</a>

## Notes

1. Please contact the Client Services staff at [info@dehumane.org](mailto:info@dehumane.org) or 302 571-0111.
2. For more information, call our Sussex County Shelter at 302 856-6361.
3. The food bank is open for walk-ins Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 7 pm and Saturday from 12 to 5 pm; call 302 427-8514 Extension 0. We ask that pets be altered; if they are not, we ask that the owner commit to have them fixed through one of the area shelter programs—see Spay/Neuter Clinics and Programs later in the document. Breeders cannot use the food bank. In addition to wet and dry cat and dog food, collars, leashes, and straw for cat housing are offered.
4. Please contact 302 943-6032, Extension 120 to request food. You will be asked for some information on yourself and your pets. Pick up time is by appointment only. Please do not drop by and ask for food.
5. The food bank (Kibble Kupboard) opens its doors to the public on scheduled food giveaway days. See the schedule at [www.thepetprojectde.org/news---events.html](http://www.thepetprojectde.org/news---events.html).

# Services for Feral and Stray Cats

## Stray Cats

Outdoor cats that are friendly may be lost but they also may be someone’s pet that is allowed to roam free. If you find a stray cat that looks healthy and well kempt, there is a good chance that he belongs to someone. Residents looking for services for stray cats can take advantage of the community cat program at the Brandywine Valley SPCA (BVSPCA). To learn more about services for stray cats, residents should contact the BVSPCA at 302-516-1007.

## Other Free-Roaming Cats, Including Feral or Semi-feral Cats

## Housing

The agencies listed in the table below can provide housing to colony caretakers. The housing, which is portable and insulated, provides shelter from the elements and helps the cats stay warm in winter.

*Table 3: Agencies Providing Cat Housing*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Faithful Friends Animal Society	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/">www.faithfulfriends.us/</a>	302 427-8514
Forgotten Cats	Suite 422 4023 Kennett Pike Greenville, DE 19807	<a href="http://www.forgottencats.org/">www.forgottencats.org/</a>	302 429-0124

## Pet Food Banks

Pet food banks will provide free food to caretakers of cat colonies. See Table 2.

## Spay/Neuter

All the shelter clinics listed in Table 5 will spay and neuter feral and stray cats. Some include a rabies vaccination and eartipping; many offer an additional discount for colony caretakers. For the safety of shelter personnel, feral cats must be received in humane traps. If help with trapping or a rental trap is needed, see Table 4, next page.

## Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR)

Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs offer a humane and effective way to decrease the number of unwanted kittens in a community, while also preventing the spread of rabies and nuisance issues. The providers below will offer services to residents wishing to trap stray or feral/semi-feral outdoor cats to have them fixed and vaccinated. Providers may be full service, meaning they assist with trapping and transportation as well, or may provide assistance to cat caretakers such as loaning traps or offering special rates for feral/semi-feral or stray cats which are lower than the usual rate to fix a pet cat. Contact the individual organization to better understand what level of support they offer.

Table 4: TNVR Providers

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>1</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/">www.faithfulfriends.us/</a>	302 427-8514
Forgotten Cats <sup>2</sup>	Suite 422 4023 Kennett Pike Greenville, DE 19807	<a href="http://www.forgottencats.org/">www.forgottencats.org/</a>	302 429-0124
First State Animal Center and SPCA <sup>3</sup>	32 Shelter Circle Camden, DE 19934	<a href="http://www.fsac-sPCA.org/">www.fsac-sPCA.org/</a>	302 943-6032

Notes

1. FFAS provides trapping services and loans humane traps to the public.
2. Forgotten Cats is a full service, large-scale TNR organization. They will provide equipment, training, transportation, and moral support as needed.
3. They do not offer trapping services, but will rent humane traps to the public for a refundable deposit.

# Spay/Neuter Clinics and Programs

Having your pet spayed or neutered is the right thing to do. It saves lives by preventing unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, keeps your pet healthier, and eliminates many nuisance or unwanted pet behaviors, such as spraying or roaming.

Don't put it off. Do it as soon as they are old enough, if possible, but have it done before they are 6 months old. Many clinics fix kittens and puppies as young as 8 weeks of age. Contrary to popular belief, waiting for your female cat or dog to go through her first heat or give birth to her first litter before getting her fixed is not better for your pet. Cats and dogs should be spayed before their first heat; doing so reduces the chances of cancer and makes the surgery itself less complicated.

Spay/neuter surgery is done by appointment and performed by a licensed veterinarian. At many clinics, the procedure is completed in one day; at others, the pet is released the next day.

## Delaware Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

The Delaware low-cost spay/neuter program allows Delaware residents receiving public assistance to have their pet spayed or neutered and vaccinated for \$20. A qualified applicant may have up to three pets per year fixed through the program. Apply easily online at [www.fixedandfab.com](http://www.fixedandfab.com). Those without Internet access on their phone or computer may also contact the Office of Animal Welfare Spay and Neuter hotline at 302-255-4632 to request a paper application. Once approved, applicants may schedule an appointment with a participating provider in their community. A list of providers in each county can be found on the web site.

## Special Services for Pit Bulls

Faithful Friends' Pit Stop Program offers free spay/neuter and vaccination for Pit Bulls and related breeds to those who cannot afford to pay low cost rates. To qualify, you must be a resident of Delaware.

*Table 5: Spay/Neuter Clinics in Delaware*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Brandywine Valley SPCA	600 South Street New Castle, DE 19720	<a href="http://www.bvspca.org">www.bvspca.org</a>	302-516-1000
Delaware Humane Association <sup>1</sup>	701 A Street Wilmington, DE 19801	<a href="http://www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=spayneuter">www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=spayneuter</a>	302 571-0111
Delaware SPCA, Georgetown <sup>2</sup>	22918 Dupont Blvd Georgetown, DE 19947	<a href="http://www.delspca.org/spay-neuter">www.delspca.org/spay-neuter</a>	302 856-6361
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>3</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/spay-%26-neuter-">www.faithfulfriends.us/spay-%26-neuter-</a>	302 427-8514
Forgotten Cats <sup>4</sup>	Suite 422 4023 Kennett Pike Greenville, DE 19807	<a href="http://www.forgottencats.org/clinic.php">www.forgottencats.org/clinic.php</a>	302 429-0124
Delaware low-cost spay/neuter program for residents receiving public assistance <sup>5</sup>	Carvel Building 1901 N. Du Pont Highway New Castle, DE 19720	<a href="http://www.fixedandfab.com">www.fixedandfab.com</a>	302 255-4632
Pit Stop Program <sup>6</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/pit-bull-program">www.faithfulfriends.us/pit-bull-program</a>	302 427-8514

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Spay Neuter Clinic <sup>7</sup>	84 Salt Creek Drive Dover, DE 19901	<a href="http://www.spayaz.com/dover-de/">www.spayaz.com/dover-de/</a>	302 735-7729
The Pet Project <sup>8</sup>	PO Box 992 Bear, Delaware 19701	<a href="http://www.thepetprojectde.org/spay--neuter-clinics.html">www.thepetprojectde.org/spay--neuter-clinics.html</a>	<a href="mailto:info@thepetprojectde.org">info@thepetprojectde.org</a>
Kitty Fix Co-Op Homeless Cat Helpers	Seaford, DE	<a href="http://www.HomelessCatHelpers.PetFinder.org">www.HomelessCatHelpers.PetFinder.org</a>	d-c_brown@juno.com

## Notes

1. For more information, to schedule an appointment, or if you have questions about DHA's spay/neuter programs, please contact our client services staff at (302) 571-0111.
2. Call 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.
3. To schedule an appointment, call 1 844 772-9738 (SPAYNET)
4. Forgotten Cats operates low cost spay/neuter clinics in Trainer and Willow Grove, PA. Call or complete the form on the web site to schedule an appointment.
5. Delaware's low-cost spay/neuter program, now administered by the Office of Animal Welfare, entitles eligible Delawareans to have up to 3 pets spayed per year for \$20 per pet. To qualify, you must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Be a Delaware resident 18 years of age or older
  - b. Own an animal from Delaware
  - c. Participate in at least one of the following assistance programs:
    - 1) General Assistance
    - 2) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
    - 3) Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP)
    - 4) Delaware Medical Assistance (Medicaid)
    - 5) Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
    - 6) Social Security – Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    - 7) Social Security – Disability
    - 8) Veteran's Administration Disability Compensation with a disability rating of 50% or higher

Call 302 255-4620 for more information and apply online at <http://www.fixedandfab.com/>.
6. The Pit Stop Program, funded by Faithful Friends Animal Society, offers low-cost or no cost spay/neuter surgery and vaccination of Pit Bulls and bully breeds. To qualify, you must be a Delaware resident. Call 302 427-8514 Extension 0 for more information and to make an appointment.
7. Call to make an appointment.
8. If you are interested in spay/neuter for your pet, please contact us by email at [info@thepetprojectde.org](mailto:info@thepetprojectde.org) and we will contact you to discuss our services further.



## Vaccine Clinics

Vaccine clinics, which are also known as shot clinics or healthy pet clinics, offer vaccinations at a reduce cost. They are hosted by animal shelters, rescues, day care and boarding facilities, and pet stores, and typically take place on weekends. Clinics held at pet stores are often referred to as wellness clinics, because they often include a physical examination of the pet in addition to the usual services and products for sale. Call or check the web site of the animal shelter, rescue, or pet store to get their clinic schedule. Services are administered by a licensed veterinarian, and include vaccinations for cats and dogs such as rabies, distemper, bordetella, canine influenza, and lyme disease; microchipping; and deworming. Flea and tick and topical deworming products are offered for sale.

There are no appointments; service is first come, first-served. It is recommended that you arrive at or before the start time to be sure your pet will be treated. Owners should bring current previous vaccine records and certificates with them. Rabies tags cannot be accepted as proof that your pet is already vaccinated.

Be sure to have your pet properly restrained and under your control at all times. Dogs must be leashed; cats should be transported in a pet carrier. Pets that have never been vaccinated, such as puppies and kittens, should be kept off the ground and away from the other pets to avoid possible exposure.

See the Vaccination and Treatment Schedule charts on pages 15 and 16 for recommended best practices for cats and dogs.

*Table 6: Vaccine Clinics in Delaware*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Brandywine Valley SPCA	600 South Street New Castle, DE 19720	<a href="http://www.bvspca.org">www.bvspca.org</a>	302-516-1000
Concord Pet, Chestnut Run <sup>1</sup>	1720 Faulkland Road Wilmington, DE 19805	<a href="http://www.concordpetfoods.com/events">www.concordpetfoods.com/events</a>	302 995-2255
Concord Pet, Dover <sup>1</sup>	15 South Dupont Highway Dover, DE 19901 US		302 672-9494
Concord Pet, Fox Run <sup>1</sup>	326 Fox Hunt Drive Bear, DE 19701		302 838-4300
Concord Pet, Graylyn Crest <sup>1</sup>	1722 Marsh Road Wilmington, DE 19810		302 477-1995
Concord Pet, Hockessin <sup>1</sup>	697 Yorklyn Road Hockessin, DE 19707		302 234-9112
Concord Pet, Middletown Crossing <sup>1</sup>	340 Main Street Middletown, DE 19709		302 376-1616
Concord Pet, Milford Crossing <sup>1</sup>	135 Aerenson Drive Milford, DE 19963		302 424-8373
Concord Pet, Millsboro <sup>1</sup>	26209 John J Williams Hwy Millsboro, DE 19966		302 945-2113
Concord Pet, New Castle <sup>1</sup>	287 Christiana Road #2 New Castle, DE 19720		302 324-0502
Concord Pet, Newark <sup>1</sup>	2818 Pulaski Highway Newark, DE 19702		302 836-5787

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Concord Pet, Rehoboth Beach <sup>1</sup>	19287 Miller Road Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971		302 226-2300
Concord Pet, Seaford <sup>1</sup>	22836 Sussex Highway Seaford, DE 19973		302-628-1001
Concord Pet, Shoppes of Red Mill <sup>1</sup>	1450 Kirkwood Highway Newark, DE 19711		302 737-8982
Concord Pet, Smyrna <sup>1</sup>	599 Jimmy Drive Smyrna, DE 19977		302 653-1515
Concord Pet, Suburban Plaza <sup>1</sup>	312 Suburban Drive Newark, DE 19711		302 368-2959
Concord Pet, Wilmington <sup>1</sup>	3703 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803		302 478-8966
Delaware Humane Association <sup>2</sup>	701 A Street Wilmington, DE 19801	<a href="http://www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=vaccinationclinics">www.dehumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=vaccinationclinics</a>	302 571-0111
Delaware SPCA, Georgetown <sup>3</sup>	22918 Dupont Blvd Georgetown, DE 19947	<a href="http://www.delspca.org/vaccine-clinics/">www.delspca.org/vaccine-clinics/</a>	302 856-6361
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>4</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/vaccine-clinics">www.faithfulfriends.us/vaccine-clinics</a>	302 427-8514
First State Animal Center and SPCA <sup>5</sup>	32 Shelter Circle Camden, DE 19934	<a href="http://www.fsac-spca.org/here-for-you/#/trap-neuter-return/">www.fsac-spca.org/here-for-you/#/trap-neuter-return/</a>	302 943-6032
Pet Supplies Plus, Wilmington <sup>6</sup>	2223 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803	<a href="#">Pet Supplies Plus #9073</a>	302 654-8901
Pet Valu, Georgetown <sup>7</sup>	6 College Park Lane College Park Shopping Center Georgetown, DE 19947		302 858-4496
Pet Valu, Greenville <sup>7</sup>	3801 Kennett Pike Greenville Center Greenville, DE 19807		302 502-2595
Pet Valu, Newark <sup>7</sup>	604 Plaza Dr Four Seasons Plaza Newark, DE 19702		302 525-6322
Petco, Christiana <sup>8</sup>	200 Center Blvd Christiana, DE 19702	<a href="#">Petco #888</a>	302 894-0290
Petco, Kirkwood Highway <sup>9</sup>	4491 Kirkwood Hwy Wilmington, DE 19808	<a href="#">Petco #2708</a>	302 636-0860
The Pet Project <sup>10</sup>	PO Box 992 Bear, Delaware 19701	<a href="http://www.thepetprojectde.org/pet-wellness-clinic.html.thepetprojectde.org">www.thepetprojectde.org/pet-wellness-clinic.html.thepetprojectde.org</a>	<a href="mailto:info@thepetprojectde.org">info@thepetprojectde.org</a>
Tractor Supply, PetVet Clinic	Various locations	<a href="http://www.tractorsupply.com">www.tractorsupply.com</a>	

## Notes

1. For clinic locations, dates, and times, see the events page of the Concord Pet web site at [www.concordpetfoods.com/events](http://www.concordpetfoods.com/events) or call the store.
2. For more information, to schedule an appointment, or if you have questions, please contact our Client Services staff at 302 571-0111.
3. Call from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday to schedule an appointment.
4. For clinic locations, dates, and times, see the spay/neuter page of the web site at [www.faithfulfriends.us/spay-%26-neuter--](http://www.faithfulfriends.us/spay-%26-neuter--) or call Customer Service at 302 427-8514 Extension 0.
5. For more information and to schedule an appointment, please contact the front desk at 302 943-6032.
6. Clinics are held Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30pm at the store.
7. Call the store for clinic dates and times.
8. Clinics are held Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the store.
9. Clinics are held Saturdays from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the store.
10. For clinic locations, dates, and times, see the events page of the web site at [www.thepetprojectde.org/news---events.html](http://www.thepetprojectde.org/news---events.html).

Table 7: Vaccination and Treatment Schedule for Cats

Vaccination or Treatment	Alternate Name	What It Treats	Minimum Age	Initial Treatment		Booster
				Kitten	Adult	
Rabies		Rabies virus	12 weeks	Rabies vaccination is mandated by Delaware law for cats six months or older. First vaccination is considered a one year vaccine.		Every three years with proof of unexpired prior vaccination; otherwise, every year.
Distemper	FVRCP	Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis				
		Calici Virus	6 weeks	Series of 3 shots given every third or fourth week; last shot considered to be one year vaccine.	First vaccination is considered to be a one year vaccine.	Annually
		Chlamydia				
Bordetella	Kennel Cough	Panleukopenia				
Dewormer		All worms except tapeworm.	2 weeks			Dosage based on animal weight. Given orally by mixing in food or syringing into mouth. Second dosage is given 2 weeks after first dose.
Profender		All worms, including tapeworm.	8 weeks (2.2 lbs)			Dosage based on animal weight. Applied topically by parting hair on cats neck and applying to skin.
Flea Treatment		Fleas and ticks	8 weeks			Dosage based on animal weight. Applied topically by parting hair on cats neck and applying to skin. Each dose provides protection for one month.



## Veterinary Clinics

Veterinary clinics provide many services at a reduced cost. Services may include wellness exams and preventative care; non-urgent sick exams and treatment, including selected surgeries; and end-of-life care.

A licensed, local veterinarian performs services and an appointment is required. Typically, the appointment fee is \$35; follow-up visits are \$15. Prescription medicines are offered at a substantial discount.

Vet clinics cannot provide emergency care. If your pet is exhibiting symptoms such as seizures, excessive bleeding, excessive vomiting/diarrhea, trauma, or poisoning, please contact one of the local emergency vet care providers listed in Table 10.

*Table 9: Vet Clinics in Delaware*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Brandywine Valley SPCA	600 South Street New Castle, DE 19720	<a href="http://www.bvspca.org">www.bvspca.org</a>	302-516-1000
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>1</sup>	12 Germary Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/veterinary-care-program">www.faithfulfriends.us/veterinary-care-program</a>	302 427-8514

### Notes

- To schedule an appointment, apply online at [www.faithfulfriends.us/veterinary-care-program](http://www.faithfulfriends.us/veterinary-care-program) or call 302 427-8514 Extension 115.

*Table 10: Emergency Vet Care Providers*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone Number / Email Address
Delmarva Animal Emergency Center	1482 E. Lebanon Rd Dover 19901	<a href="http://www.delmarvaer.com">www.delmarvaer.com</a>	302 697-0850
Middletown Veterinary Hospital	366 Warwick Road Middletown, DE 19709	<a href="http://www.bestvetyet.com">www.bestvetyet.com</a>	302 378-2342
Penn Vet	3900 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19104	<a href="http://www.vet.upenn.edu/veterinary-hospitals/ryan-veterinary-hospital">www.vet.upenn.edu/veterinary-hospitals/ryan-veterinary-hospital</a>	215 746-8911
Savannah Animal Hospital	33818 Westcoats Rd, Lewes, DE 19958	<a href="http://www.savannahanimalhosp.com/">http://www.savannahanimalhosp.com/</a>	(302) 645-8757
VCA Newark	1360 Marrows Road Newark, DE 19711	<a href="http://www.vcahospitals.com/newark">http://www.vcahospitals.com/newark</a>	(302) 737-8100
Veterinary Referral Center	340 Lancaster Avenue Malvern, PA	<a href="http://vrcmalvern.com/">vrcmalvern.com/</a>	610 647-2950
Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware	290 Churchman's Road New Castle, DE	<a href="http://www.vscdel.com/">www.vscdel.com/</a>	302 322-6933
Windcrest Animal Hospital	3705 Lancaster Pike Wilmington, DE	<a href="http://www.windcrestanimal.com/">www.windcrestanimal.com/</a>	302 998-2995

# How to Cope with the High Cost of Veterinary Care

Pet ownership comes with costs associated with keeping pets healthy and happy. In addition to pet food and grooming, the cost of routine vet care, such as annual examinations, vaccinations, and treatment for minor illnesses, is something most pet owners can deal with and budget for. When the price of veterinary office and diagnostic fees are too high, many pet owners will go to veterinary and vaccine clinics, which offer comparable services at a lower cost.

Paying for unexpected non-routine or emergency pet care is another story. This care, which can cost thousands, creates financial hardship for many pet owners, and can mean life or death for the pet. Most pet owners will face the difficulty of paying for this kind of expensive veterinary care at one time or another. Sadly, those that cannot afford it sometimes watch their pets suffer, opt for cheaper euthanasia services, or relinquish their pet to someone who can pay care.

Listed below are suggestions and strategies that will help pet owners cope with this scenario.

## Speak with your veterinarian

Discuss the circumstances with your veterinarian. If the estimated cost of services is more than you can afford as a lump sum, ask if he or she will discount the price or allow you to make monthly payments. Your veterinarian may also have low-cost treatment alternatives to offer. For example, in some instances, your veterinarian may recommend generic, over-the-counter medication in place of higher cost prescription medication. You should also shop around, as fees may vary among veterinary providers.

## Look for low-cost alternatives

Many local animal shelters and animal welfare organizations offer lower cost services through vaccine clinics, spay/neuter clinics, and veterinary clinics. Clinics provide routine care, such as vaccines, spaying and neutering, as well as diagnosis and treatment of minor illness or injury. Some offer sliding scale fees based on income. In general, they are not equipped to handle emergency care or chronic illness.

## Check out veterinary schools

Veterinary schools may offer discounted veterinary services through their teaching hospital. The University of Pennsylvania's Ryan Veterinary Hospital in Philadelphia is a local option.

## Care Credit

CareCredit is a healthcare credit card designed for health and wellness needs. It's a way to pay for the costs of many [treatments and procedures](#) for your pets; and it allows you to make [convenient monthly payments](#). For complete details of veterinary care financing terms and conditions, please review the [CareCredit account agreement](#) within the application.

## Charities

Several area rescues and animal welfare organizations offer financial assistance to those that cannot afford to pay for veterinary care.

*Table 11: Delaware Charitable Organizations*

Agency / Organization	Web Site	
Grass Roots Rescue	<a href="http://www.grrde.org/vet-care-for-pets-strayferal-cats/">www.grrde.org/vet-care-for-pets-strayferal-cats/</a>	Funding for vet care for the pets of people with limited income and for stray/feral cats
The Pet Project	<a href="http://www.thepetprojectde.org/index.html">www.thepetprojectde.org/index.html</a>	Funding for vet care for pet owners facing financial hardship

## Crowdsource funding

*Table 12: Crowdsource Funding Organizations*

Agency / Organization	Web Site	
Pet Chance	<a href="http://petchance.org/">petchance.org/</a>	Petchance.org helps pet owners raise money through online donations to pay for veterinary care.



# Temporary Shelter for Owned Pets

A few animal shelters have programs to provide temporary shelter for pets of domestic violence victims, and for people in transitional housing situations based on space availability.

*Table 13: Temporary Shelter for Owned Pets*

Agency / Organization	Address	Web Site	Phone
Delaware SPCA, Georgetown <sup>1</sup>	22918 Dupont Blvd Georgetown, DE 19947	<a href="http://www.delspca.org/">www.delspca.org/</a>	302 856-6361
Faithful Friends Animal Society <sup>2</sup>	12 Germay Drive Wilmington, DE 19804	<a href="http://www.faithfulfriends.us/">www.faithfulfriends.us/</a>	302 427-8514
First State Animal Center and SPCA <sup>3</sup>	32 Shelter Circle Camden, DE 19934	<a href="http://www.fsac-sPCA.org/">www.fsac-sPCA.org/</a>	302 943-6032
PACT for Animals <sup>4</sup>	P.O. Box 590, Gladwyne, PA 19035	<a href="https://pactforanimals.org/">https://pactforanimals.org/</a>	610 581-4141
Seer Farms <sup>5</sup>	P.O. Box 91, Jackson NJ 08527	<a href="http://seerfarms.org/">http://seerfarms.org/</a>	732 928-1804

## Notes

1. For pets of domestic violence victims. Call for details and availability.
2. For pets of domestic violence victims and transitional housing situations. Call for details and availability
3. Call for details and availability.
4. Temporary foster care for pets whose owners require hospitalization or are military personnel.
5. Low-cost foster care for pets whose owners are in crisis.