

## **Dona Ana County Humane Society**

# **Animal Relief Fund Guidelines**

1. ARF clients must bring proof of government assistance or pay stub **and** their most recent income tax return to verify that they are low income. Proof is at least one form of documentation that can include: food stamps, Medicaid, full-time student receiving financial aid; retirement benefits, SSI or SSD, unemployment benefits, pay stub, or school lunch program. If applicant did not file a tax return, he/she must sign waiver on the ARF application that no income tax return was filed. **Qualification for program is based on total income of all members of household, not just the applicant's income.**

**HUD guidelines are used to determine low-income status; see back of page.**

2. Program is offered only one time per year per household. The client cannot keep coming back for more assistance for multiple animals or multiple problems within a year from the date they applied for ARF assistance. The program covers follow-up care for up to 60 days. Animal must live in the household that applies for the funding. **ARF does not cover spay/neuter, or problems that were preventable via vaccinations or spay/neuter.** These preventable problems include, but are not limited to: rabies, parvo, upper respiratory infection, distemper, pregnancy and pregnancy-related problems. **ARF does not cover cremations.** Those who need spay/neuter services should call SNAP at (575) 524-9265, or Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley, (575) 382-0018.

3. **The client must pay a \$50 cash co-pay** to DACHS in order to receive a voucher to take to the veterinary office (if it's an emergency case, the \$50 can be paid directly to the veterinary office.) The voucher covers up to \$250 toward veterinary costs. A second voucher may be purchased for an additional \$50 cash co-pay if the veterinary estimate shows the bill will exceed the \$250 cap. Limit is two vouchers per incident. **The vouchers are good only for the medical problem that the pet is experiencing at the time the vouchers are issued. They cannot be used for any other medical issue or service.** Client is responsible for paying any expense beyond DACHS' cap, and that portion of the bill is due when services are rendered.

4. Vaccinations are not covered by the emergency care voucher. Separate, free vaccination vouchers that cover up to \$50 worth of vaccines are available to qualifying ARF clients. **The vaccination vouchers are good for vaccines only, and do not cover office visits or any other service.**

5. Aid for long-term medication is available on a case-by-case basis, for six-month periods. After the six months, any further aid will be determined after DACHS consults with the client's veterinarian and whether funds are available.

5. We cannot disperse checks to individuals for amounts that have already been paid by the client. ARF only assists in helping to pay the veterinary bill directly.
6. Client must present voucher(s) to veterinary office in order for voucher(s) to be applied toward the bill. If no voucher is turned in, the client is responsible for the full amount of the bill. If the client loses the voucher(s) there is a \$20 replacement fee for each voucher.

**HUD/DACHS low-income eligibility guidelines:**

1-person household:	\$30,300
2-person household:	\$34,600
3-person household:	\$38,950
4-person household:	\$43,300
5-person household:	\$46,750
6-person household:	\$50,200
7-person household:	\$53,650
8-person household:	\$57,150