Good Neighbor Fund
Good Neighbor Outreach Program

Provided by Goochland Pet Lovers

About the Good Neighbor Fund and Outreach Program

Goochland Pet Lovers (GPL), a 501(c)3 located in Goochland County, established the Good Neighbor Fund (GNF) in September 2020, and launched the Good Neighbor Outreach Program (GNO) in February 2021. This program was formed to assist families and individuals by offering vet care at no cost to them. By doing so, the program allows families to keep their pets healthy and in their homes which, in turn, creates a healthier community.

The Good Neighbor Fund provides need-based financial assistance for preventive and minor/basic pet care for qualified Goochland and Powhatan residents who live at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Program Initiatives and Requirements

- To assist qualified Goochland and Powhatan residents, who reside at an income level at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, with preventive and basic/minor pet care at no cost to them. Goochland and Powhatan residents who do not meet the eligibility requirements may receive assistance from the GNF upon recommendation/referral by the Animal Protection Director and approval by the GNO Committee (defined in the section titled Requesting Financial Assistance and Approval Process).
- To provide preventive and minor/basic pet care each year for up to two (2) pets per family. Exceptions can be made for special circumstances, if funding is available and approved by the GNO Committee.
- Funding is designated for preventive and minor/basic care only, and not for emergency medical care or for provisions of continuous pet food. (Pet food may be provided at monthly clinics or obtained from the Food Pantry at GoochlandCares.)
- Special consideration may be given to residents who do not qualify based on income, but who need to have a dog or cat spayed/neutered. These residents may apply for funds for spay/neuter only and the GNO Committee may approve funds for the procedure.
- Those involved in domestic abuse cases, and who have dogs and/or cats, are eligible for funds upon recommendation by the Animal Protection Director and approval by the GNO Committee, even if they are not a Goochland or Powhatan resident.
- Applications will be taken by phone and completed by the GNO Program Coordinator. All paperwork will be reviewed and signed by the client upon arrival at the clinic. No paperwork will be sent in prior to the scheduled clinic.

- Preventive and minor/basic pet care, as well as spay & neuter procedures, may be coordinated with pre-arranged partners. This may include monthly GNO clinics held at the Goochland County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, other non-profits, or veterinary practices in Goochland and surrounding counties.
- Transportation provided by GNO volunteers may be available 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, if available, of the animal to an appointment. For residents who qualify for Meals on Wheels, but do not qualify for the GNO Program, transportation services only may be provided to take a pet to a scheduled vet appointment.
- Clients who are unable to make a clinic appointment must call as early as possible to cancel/reschedule. If the Program Coordinator is not notified, the client will be considered a NO SHOW. And, if this happens a second time, the client will be dropped from the program.
- GNO provides monthly heartworm prevention for dogs in 6-month packets. In between clinic appointments, it is the client's responsibility to pick up the prescription from the shelter. Clients will be called and asked to collect these during the next GNO clinic. Anyone can pick these up on the client's behalf - as long as the client communicates to the Program Coordinator who is coming. If pickup during the clinic is not an option, the client can pick them up the following week, as long as the Program Coordinator has been notified. If they are not collected by the end of the following week and the client has not notified the Program Coordinator, this will be considered a NO SHOW. As with appointments, 2 NO SHOWs and the client will be dropped from the program.
- If the vet who has examined the client's pet has made a recommendation (such as diet and exercise) for the benefit of the pet's health, and it is obvious that these instructions are not being followed, at the vet's discretion the client will be dropped from the program.
- Any signs of abuse will be reported to the appropriate Animal Protection organization.

Eligibility

The Good Neighbor Outreach Committee will use the following eligibility requirements to fund as many Goochland and Powhatan 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 must be at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Client must sign a statement on the Application confirming that 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. Please note: 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 to continue in the program. If the animal has not been altered previously, the client must agree to have the procedure performed unless a licensed veterinarian waives the requirement. GNF to provide funding.
- Dog Licenses are required. The GNF will pay licensing fee.
- Program is restricted to pet dogs and cats only. Animals must be privately owned and able to be handled by the vet staff. No feral cats or livestock are eligible for funding.
- Limit to two (2) pets per family unless funding is available and approved by the GNO Committee.
- The GNO Committee has the authority to override any eligibility requirements for funding or services.
- Clients must qualify annually for the program by signing a Financial Eligibility form as well as showing proof of income unless the client is registered with GoochlandCares. The client will show a SNAP benefits card, tax return or other approved option.
- In addition to the Application form, clients must sign a Consent to Treatment, a Liability Waiver Agreement and a Disclosure of Clinic Hours of Operation and Staffing prior to any treatment or service.
- Clients requiring transportation must sign a Transportation Liability Waiver.
- 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, the GNO Program Coordinator will provide them.

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
- Heartworm Test/Prevention
- Heartworm Treatment
- Medical Grooming
- Deworming
- Minor medical issues
- Medical Dental Cleanings, if recommended by a GNO Veterinarian

- Dog License
- Implant Microchip (Paid for through the GPL Microchip Fund)
- Collar, leash, and/or carrier as needed

Expenses Not Covered

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

- Emergency Pet Care
- Continuous Food or basic pet supplies
- Any vet care previously performed, or any vet bills previously paid

Requesting Financial Assistance and Approval Process

The Good Neighbor Outreach Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than five members and will maintain an odd number of members. The GNO Committee shall include GPL Board members, the GNO Program Coordinator and at least one (1) Veterinarian. (Note: The Veterinarian does not have to be a GPL Board member if no Veterinarians are currently serving on the board.) Members may serve indefinitely. The GNO Committee is responsible for making funding decisions as well as giving approvals for exceptions to policy.

The Good Neighbor Outreach Committee may consist of GPL Board members, the GNO Program Coordinator, volunteers, community residents and GNO Program Clients. Members may serve indefinitely. The GNO Committee is responsible for discussing marketing and program ideas to better serve the community.

- Goochland and Powhatan residents seeking assistance must complete an application by phone with the GNO Program Coordinator.
- The GNO Program Coordinator will present the list of clients for the next scheduled clinic to the GNO Committee to discuss any policy exceptions as needed.
- Applications received after noon on the Monday prior to a clinic will be scheduled for the following monthly clinic.
- All clients will be seen by the GNO Veterinarians at a monthly GNO clinic. Additional services, such as spay/neuter, will be scheduled subsequently, as needed.
- The Good Neighbor Outreach Program collaborates with several partners to provide care. The best partner for the animal will be determined, and an appointment will be set at the GNO Program Coordinator's discretion.
- If the resident is unable to travel to the appointment, the GNO Program Coordinator may attempt to recruit a volunteer to transport the animal for the resident.
- The client must sign a Consent for Treatment, Liability Waiver Agreement, a Disclosure of Clinic Hours of Operation and Staffing and a Transportation Liability Waiver prior to transport, and before any treatment or service is performed.

- Goochland Pet Lovers will disburse the approved funds directly to the veterinary practice who performed the services.
- Invoices will be directed to Goochland Pet Lovers or the GNO Program Coordinator 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. This includes participants of Meals on Wheels who do not qualify for funding from the GNO Program.
- Assist with the monthly GNO Program Clinics.
- Promote the program throughout Goochland and Powhatan Counties.

Additional Information

- Goochland Pet Lovers does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its programs, activities or operations.
- Goochland Pet Lovers 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 will be 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 in full to the Good Neighbor Fund.
- 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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