

Susie's Fund Guidelines

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Background

Susie's Fund donations will be used for the medical treatment of abused, injured, or neglected animals at the Guilford County Animal Shelter. These funds will not be used for customary non-emergency vet services such as spay/neuter, well-animal checkups, food, or any other usual and customary expenses of running a shelter. In addition, the funds will be maintained in a separate account on Guilford County Financial books, and a running balance and transactions will be reported on a publicly available County webpage, which will be maintained for a year after all funds, current and future, are expended. Finally, Guilford County will continue to refer to Susie's Fund by that name and account for any additional donations received in the same manner as those transferred from UAC in June 2016.

Selection Criteria

Animals receiving treatment under Susie's Fund must be eligible for placement by direct adoption from the Guilford County Animal Shelter. Susie's Fund is not intended to treat owned animals or pets being transferred to a rescue group for final placement. Decisions about "adoptability" will be made by shelter management staff in accordance with standard procedures.

As noted above, Susie's Fund will be used for the medical treatment of abused, injured, or neglected animals. The following conditions will be used to evaluate the application of the fund in a given case:

- There is a good prognosis for recovery.
- There is an expectation for a good quality and longevity of life after treatment.
- The condition is not expected to have extensive and expensive continued treatment or be chronic in nature.
- Initial diagnosis and treatment will be covered through the fund; follow up care will need to be coordinated with the adopter's own veterinarian at his/her cost. (A medical waiver will accompany the standard adoption agreement.)
- Recovery must be something that can be managed in the shelter or in foster care.

Examples of procedures that could qualify for Susie's Fund are diagnostics for injuries (radiographs, ultrasounds, etc.), supportive care (pain management, IV fluids, antibiotics, etc.), and medical procedures (surgery, fracture repair, wound care, etc.). The fund may also be used to offset costs of care for injured stray animals sent to an emergency veterinary clinic outside of the shelter's standard operating hours.

Approved Clinics

Veterinary clinics that already have a relationship with GCAS will be eligible for receiving animals needing treatment via Susie's Fund. At present, these include Happy Tails Veterinary Emergency Clinic, Carolina Veterinary Specialists, and Southwoods Animal Hospital. Other practices interested in establishing a relationship should contact GCAS.

Accounting

GCAS staff will update a balance sheet monthly to record expenditures and donations from/to Susie's Fund. The balance sheet will be posted on the GCAS website so it is available for public inspection at any time. The expenditures will reference the identification numbers of specific animals receiving treatment, and there will be a link to the GCAS Facebook page to reference posts containing additional detail. Donations will be shown as being received from an anonymous donor unless the donor would like to be named.\

Communication

GCAS staff will post profiles of animals treated by Susie's Fund on the GCAS Facebook page. The posts will provide background on the nature of the animal's medical needs and the care provided through Susie's Fund. This post will be linked to the animal identification number referenced on the accounting detail posted on the GCAS website. Additionally, staff will place signage on the animal's cage card at the shelter to indicate to customers that the pet received treatment made possible by Susie's Fund.