

# Safety Net Program



We all know that life happens. There is no way to plan for everything and when we fall on hard times, it's nice to know that there is a net in place to catch us. Asheville Humane Society, through our Safety Net Program, can be a valuable resource for many of your pet-related needs when times get tough. We have found that when people find themselves in difficult situations, they feel there is no recourse but to surrender their beloved pets to the shelter. We understand that you care deeply for your pets and we want to help you keep them safe, healthy and in a loving home. Below is a list of community resources offered by Asheville Humane Society to give you and your pet the help you need.

## **Financial Hardship**

- **Pet Food Assistance Program** – Asheville Humane Society provides dog and cat food to 14 different human food pantries in our area, including Meals on Wheels. We're happy to provide you with the list of these pantries and services so your pet never has to go hungry.
- **Temporary Re-homing** – If you are facing a housing crisis such as eviction or foreclosure, temporary, low-cost boarding, is available through our partnership with local boarding facilities.
- **Medical Care** – You may find yourself in need of unexpected vet care. We can help! We have many options available for people in need of financial assistance paying unplanned vet bills.
- **Low-Cost Spay/Neuter** – We have low-cost and no-cost vouchers available for anyone needing assistance spaying or neutering their cat or dog.
- **Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics** – We are very grateful to have veterinarians in our community who offer their services for our clinics. Here, you can get your dog or cat vaccinated and microchipped at a very low cost. We also provide free ID tags.

**Pet Behavior Help** - From inappropriate urination to aggression, sometimes animals take on behaviors that can be very difficult to cope with and leave you feeling helpless. An experienced professional can help, but you want to be careful when choosing a trainer to be sure they possess the skills needed to properly help your pet. We partner with several highly qualified trainers in our area who are willing to work with people on a tight budget. Our staff also offers free help for behavior issues before you decide to give up your pet.

**Pet-Friendly Housing Guide** – If you are moving and looking for a place that will allow pets, you can visit our website at [www.ashevillehumane.org/ahs-pet-friendly-housing.php](http://www.ashevillehumane.org/ahs-pet-friendly-housing.php) for a list of apartments and rental agencies that are pet friendly.

**Re-homing**- Our Safety-Net Coordinator can help you navigate the re-homing process and provide extensive exposure by posting your pet's photo and description on our website. We will alter and vaccinate your pet for free as part of the process. This is a reliable way to re-home your dog or cat from your care to another's care without your pet ever coming into the shelter.

To learn more about our programs, contact Emily Gelb, Safety Net Coordinator, at (828) 250-6429. Your call will be returned by the next business day. You may also contact her via email at [EGelb@ashevillehumane.org](mailto:EGelb@ashevillehumane.org). We want to make surrendering your pet to the shelter a last resort.