Steps to the Application Process

1. The applicant must contact the veterinary practice treating their dog or cat's illness or injury to ask if they are willing to work with nonprofit organizations for financial assistance.
2. The applicant is responsible for obtaining the email address of the treating veterinary practice and including it in their application.
3. The applicant must read all guidelines and policies provided in the following pages thoroughly before applying.
4. The applicant must collect all required documentation that demonstrates financial hardship (examples are provided on page 4). These documents must be submitted along with the completed application for assistance.
5. **Paws 4 A Cure will not review or respond to applications until both the completed application and proof of hardship documentation have been received.**
6. Once the application and documentation are received, Paws 4 A Cure will email the veterinary practice a Veterinary Packet to complete and return, along with a detailed estimate for the treatment still needed.
7. The applicant is **required** to apply to multiple financial assistance programs in addition to Paws 4 A Cure to increase the likelihood of receiving sufficient funding. A list of additional resources is available on our Helpful Resources page: **https://www.paws4acure.org/helpfulresources/**
8. After the treating veterinary practice submits the completed Veterinary DX/Treatment Information form and treatment estimate, Paws 4 A Cure will email the applicant with a few follow-up questions based on the veterinary documentation. This information is used to determine whether a grant can be awarded, and if so, for what amount.
9. Upon receipt of all necessary materials, your application will be reviewed within a few hours.

Decisions are based on several factors, including medical urgency, financial need, available funding, and overall eligibility. Due to the overwhelming number of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to assist every applicant.

If the application for assistance is approved

1. Both the applicant and the treating veterinary practice will receive an approval email along with an official Acceptance Letter before any treatment is performed.
2. The approved applicant must complete all requirements outlined in the approval email to allow Paws 4 A Cure to create an official fundraising page. Note: We cannot use existing fundraising platforms (e.g., GoFundMe). Only fundraising pages created by Paws 4 A Cure are eligible. If these requirements are not completed, Paws 4 A Cure cannot fundraise on behalf of the applicant's pet, and no payment will be released. The applicant will then be fully responsible for all veterinary charges. Exceptions may be made in special cases, such as domestic violence situations.
3. The applicant's dog or cat will receive the veterinary treatment if they have enough funding.
4. Once the approved applicant receives the email that the Paws 4 A Cure fundraising page is complete. The approved applicant is **REQUIRED** to fundraise by sharing the fundraising page that Paws 4 A Cure creates with your friends and family to generate donations for your dog or cat's veterinary care. If you are in need of additional funding, you should reach out to your local news media to reach a larger audience. We do make exceptions, especially for domestic violence situations.
5. The veterinary practice will email or fax the itemized invoice to Paws 4 A Cure. Payment will be processed through our Bank of America Bill Pay within 24 hours of receiving the invoice. Once processed, an email will be sent to the veterinary practice with the BOA confirmation number and the estimated date of check delivery. Payments are sent directly from Bank of America and typically arrive within one week, unless delayed by holiday mailing schedules.
6. The approved applicant will provide Paws 4 A Cure updates on their dog or cat's health.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*** Paws 4 A Cure does not provide financial assistance for vaccinations, spaying/neutering, heartworm preventative, flea/tick preventative, routine veterinary care, euthanasia or cremation.**

*** Paws 4 A Cure does not provide assistance with outstanding veterinary bills.**

You may be ineligible for financial assistance from Paws 4 A Cure if:

- You are not a resident of the United States.
- You cannot provide proof of ownership of the dog or cat.
- You do not submit all required documentation requested by Paws 4 A Cure.
- You have been approved for the full treatment amount through CareCredit or another financing option.
- You are requesting payment for a past-due or outstanding bill.
- Your pet is currently being held at the veterinary office due to non-payment.
- You are requesting reimbursement for veterinary expenses that have already been paid.
- Your veterinarian has agreed to a payment plan, and treatment can proceed without a grant.
- Your pet has not yet received a diagnosis and still requires testing to determine one.
- You are seeking help for elective procedures or non-essential surgeries that are not critical to your pet's survival or well-being.

Funding Information

Decisions are based upon several factors, including medical urgency, financial need, available funding, and eligibility. Please be advised that the maximum assistance available from Paws 4 A Cure is $400.

If your application is approved, Paws 4 A Cure will set up a fundraising page in order to solicit these funds. In order that Paws 4 A Cure may create a fundraising page, you will be required to provide: a picture of your dog/cat, a family photo including your dog/cat, your dog's/cat's story including his/her medical condition, information as to why additional assistance is necessary, and a "thank you" to donors helping your dog/cat. The fundraising pages are a crucial part of the ability to finance, in part, your dog/cat care. The fundraising page is to raise funds so that we can continue to help other dogs and cats receive urgent veterinary care as your dog/cat is. Paws 4 A Cure cannot use your already existing GoFundMe page or another fundraising page on another platform other than created by Paws 4 A Cure. If the requirements are not received, Paws 4 A Cure is unable to fundraise for your dog/cat, therefore, no payment will be released, and you will be responsible for the charges.

If you should need additional funds on top of the Paws 4 A Cure approved grant amount, we will make the fundraising page goal that amount. Any amount raised over the approved grant amount will be sent to the veterinary practice if there is a remaining balance due.

Paws 4 A Cure Payment Policies

- Paws 4 A Cure does not provide assistance with outstanding veterinary bills. Paws 4 A Cure provides assistance for treatment still needed.

- Paws 4 A Cure cannot pay for treatment in advance.

- Paws 4 A Cure cannot pay a deposit.

- Paws 4 A Cure does not provide assistance with outstanding veterinary bills or reimburse for any amount that the applicant has paid to the veterinary practice, CareCredit, ScratchPay or any other payment program.

- If the applicant has CareCredit, they must use it first. Paws 4 A Cure cannot reimburse for a CareCredit payment or any other payment made.

- Paws 4 A Cure will pay only up to the grant amount. If the balance is lower than the grant amount, Paws 4 A Cure will not pay the full amount of the grant.

- Paws 4 A Cure will only make payment to a veterinarian, clinic or hospital. Funds are never disbursed to an applicant.

- Paws 4 A Cure cannot pay on an invoice showing no balance due.

- If the application is accepted, the applicant must supply a photo of their dog/cat and their story for a fundraising page to be created Paws 4 A Cure. We ask that each approved applicant helps to fundraise for their dog or cat's care by sharing the fundraising page that Paws 4 A Cure creates to bring in much needed funds so that we can continue to help those in need. If the applicant does not provide the requirements for the fundraising page to be created, Paws 4 A Cure is unable to fundraise for the applicant's dog or cat. Therefore, no payment will be released and the applicant will be responsible for the charges. We do make exceptions, especially for domestic violence situations.

- If the application is approved:
  To process payment, the treating veterinary practice must email or fax an itemized invoice to Paws 4 A Cure after the approved treatment has been performed.

  Payment by Check: If the veterinary practice requests the payment by check, the payment will be processed through our Bank of America Bill Pay system within 24 hours of receiving the invoice. Once processed, an email will be sent to the veterinary practice providing the Bank of America confirmation number and the expected check arrival date. Checks are mailed directly from Bank of America and typically arrive within one week. Please allow additional time for delivery delays due to holidays or inclement weather.

  Payment by Debit Card: If the veterinary practice requests to receive the payment by the Paws 4 A Cure debit card, the payment will be made over the phone on the same day the invoice is received, provided it arrives at least an hour before the veterinary practice's close of business and we are available to process the payment. Otherwise, payment will be made on the next business day.

Application Checklist

Below applies for all members of your household over 18 years of age that contribute to the household finances.

- **(REQUIRED)** Complete the application on pages five and six.
- **(REQUIRED)** Copy of the front of your license or picture ID.
- **(REQUIRED)** Copy of your most recent bank statement (all pages).
- **(REQUIRED)** A screenshot showing today's balance from all of your checking/savings bank accounts.
- **(REQUIRED)** Proof that you cannot financially afford the veterinary care without a grant. Below is a list of documents that are acceptable proof of hardship. You need to submit all documents that best demonstrate your current financial situation and why you are unable to afford to pay for the veterinary care on your own.
- **(REQUIRED)** In the body of your email explain why you cannot afford the treatment on your own. Please provide the full name, their age & relationship to you of everyone living in the home other than you. Your monthly rent/mortgage, utilities and other expenses. Provide any fundraising page links in your email.

Before sending any documents to Paws 4 A Cure, you may cover the account numbers and/or social security numbers. If they show, please be ensured that your private information will not be shared.

- Last pay stub (if employed) for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- Letter of acceptance from any form of Social Security, proof of current Social Security, Unemployment, Disability, SNAP, Medicaid/Medicare, WIC, Public Housing, Section 8, Transitional Assistance.
- Copy of your approval/denial letter from CareCredit (if your veterinary office accepts) for all members of your household over 18 years of age and your most recent statement.
- A copy of your pet's insurance policy (if applicable).
- Any document that proves that you cannot afford the veterinary care on your own or all members of your household over 18 years of age.

Do not provide any veterinary documents, that will come from the treating veterinarian.

Your completed documentation can be sent using one of the following methods:

- Scanned as a PDF file and emailed to **grants@paws4acure.org** (preferred method). Please add grants@paws4acure.org to your safe senders list to ensure you receive our emails.
- Via fax (866) 799-5166. Only fax once as Paws 4 A Cure pays per page.

Do **NOT** mail your documents. It slows down the process as the PO Box is checked once a month. Image files must be legible (not blurry). The documentation must be close-up for Paws 4 A Cure to read. We cannot process your application if we cannot read them.

Scanners and faxes are available at copy stores, libraries, business offices and at your veterinary practice.

Paws 4 A Cure Application For Assistance

*** Required Fields must be completed.**
*** Do not use all capital letters.**

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION (please type or print clearly)

*Applicant's First and Last Name:	*Age:	*Phone:
*Street Address:		Apt. or Unit:
*City/Town:	*State:	*Zip Code:
*Email (REQUIRED):		*How Many Adults Live in Your House?:
*Relationship Status: Select From Dropdown Menu		*How Many Children Live in Your House?:
*Your Employer's Name:		Employer's Phone #:

*What is your current monthly income after taxes (from all sources):

*Please select the statement that applies to your normal financial situation: □ Recent loss of job (within 6 months) □ Major medical diagnosis □ Senior Citizen □ Permanent Disabled □ Temporarily Disabled □ Veteran of the United States Military

*Are you currently receiving: □ Social Security □ Unemployment □ Disability □ SNAP □ Public Housing/Section8 □ Alimony □ Child Support **Please provide documentation if you receive any of the above.**

SPOUSE OR LIVE-IN GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND'S INFORMATION (please type or print clearly)

Spouse or Live-In Girlfriend/Boyfriend's Full Name: Age:

Employer's Name: Employer's Phone #:

What is your Spouse or Domestic Partner's current monthly income after taxes (from all sources):

Please select the statement that applies to your Spouse or Domestic Partner's normal financial situation: □ Recent loss of job (within 6 months) □ Major medical diagnosis □ Senior Citizen □ Permanent Disabled □ Temporarily Disabled □ Veteran of the United States Military

Is your Spouse or GF/BFs currently receiving: □ Social Security □ Unemployment □ Disability □ SNAP □ Public Housing/Section8 □ Alimony □ Child Support **Please provide documentation if you receive any of the above.**

***Please explain why your household cannot afford the veterinary care. Do not include anything about the veterinary care. It is about your financial situation. (If longer than two sentences, type it in your email):**

PET INFORMATION One pet per application (please type or print clearly)

*Pet's Name:		*□ Dog or □ Cat	Breed:
*Sex: □ Male □ Female	*Age:	*Spayed/Neutered: □ Yes □ No	*Date of injury or illness:

*Explain your pet's illness or injury, diagnosis & treatment provided:

*Explain the treatment still needed **(DIAGNOSIS REQUIRED)**:

*When were they diagnosed?: *When is the treatment scheduled for?:

*What is the estimated cost of the treatment?: *What amount are you able to contribute?:

*What amount are you asking for Paws 4 A Cure's help? (maximum $400): My dog is a trained service animal: □ Yes

*Do you have pet insurance? □ Yes □ No If so please list carrier:

*Treating Veterinary Practice's Street Address, City/Town, State & Zip code:

*Veterinary Practice's Phone Number: Veterinary Practice's Fax:

*Veterinary Practice's Email Address (**REQUIRED**):

How did you hear about Paws 4 A Cure? _____

Did you complete your application on your ☐ Computer/Laptop ☐ Android ☐ iPhone

How to Save the Paws 4 A Cure Application For Assistance Packet

For Computers (Windows or Mac)

1. To sign:
   - o Click the Fill & Sign tool (pen icon).
   - o Choose Add Signature → type, draw, or upload your signature.
   - o Place it in the signature box.
2. Go to File → Save As, rename the file to Application Packet_Your Name.pdf, and save.

For Android Phones/Tablets

1.To sign:
   - o Tap the pen icon  → Fill & Sign.
   - o Add your signature and place it in the signature box.

2.Tap the three dots (·) → Save As/Save a Copy. Rename the file to Application Packet_Your Name.pdf, and save.

For iPhone/iPad

1. To sign:
   - o Tap the pen icon  → Fill & Sign.
   - o Add your signature and place it in the signature box.

2. When finished, tap the Share icon → Rename the file to Application Packet_Your Name.pdf, and save.

AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE

Please read and sign below to acknowledge the following:

By signing below, I agree to abide by all Paws 4 A Cure policies and guidelines, and I attest that all information provided on my application is true and accurate.

I acknowledge that my application will not be reviewed until both my completed application and all required proof of hardship documents (as listed on page 4) have been received.

Furthermore, the undersigned releases Paws 4 A Cure from any and all liability related to financial assistance provided. I agree not to hold Paws 4 A Cure, its volunteers, Board of Directors, or benefactors legally responsible in the unfortunate event that my pet succumbs to illness or injury.

I understand that if my application is approved, I am required to provide both a story and photos of my furchild for inclusion on our Paws Recipient page and fundraising page, which will be shared on Paws 4 A Cure's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Without this information, Paws 4 A Cure will be unable to fundraise on my behalf, and no grant will be paid to the treating veterinary practice.

By signing below, I also give Paws 4 A Cure permission to use my story and/or photos in our newsletter or on our website, without compensation. Please note that your name and city/town will not be included.

Additionally, I agree to share the fundraising page with my family and friends to help support the fundraising efforts.

*Signature: _____ *Date:_____