

## Allowability Companion Guidance

### Topic/Grant

Service Animals and Pets

### FAQ/Requirements

Guiding Principles:

1. The decision to leave an abusive situation can be made more difficult for the victim when it involves leaving a pet behind. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), 71 percent of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters reported that the abuser threatened, harmed, or killed the family pet.
2. Actual or threatened animal abuse can be an indicator of domestic violence and is an early warning sign of concurrent or future violence.
3. Definitions:
  - a) **PET**- The term “pet” means a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish, turtle, or other animal that is kept for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.
  - b) **SERVICE ANIMAL**- The term “service animal” means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.
  - c) **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL** - The term “emotional support animal” means an animal that is covered by the exclusion specified in 24 C.F.R. section 5.303 (or a successor regulation), and that is not a service animal.

| Question/Scenario  | Response   |
|--|--|
| Do we have to use funds to serve service/support animals and pets?   | No. Serving service/support animals and pets is not mandatory. Programs may choose to use grant funds to support expenses that are related to securing the safety of such an animal during the sheltering, housing, or relocation of such victims.   |
| How do we allocate funds to in our grants?   | Serving service/support animals and pets is part of client assistance. When submitting a grant budget, include a cost item(s) under the Client Assistance line item. Service/support animals and pet funds are subject to all other Client Assistance parameters outlined in Grantee Guidelines. |
| If we include service/support animals and pets, do we need to use funds for all areas listed on the animal allowability chart below? | No. As with other funds, your internal policies and procedures guide how your organization uses funds. For example, your organization may choose to use funds for boarding a pet while a victim is in an emergency shelter, but not pay for animal deposits for rental housing.                  |
| Is there a maximum amount we can spend to serve service/support animals and pets?  | Yes. There is a \$1,200 per year cap per client combined for all costs.  |
| Our facility is not equipped to house animals on site. Can we use funds to   | No. Funds are specific to Client Assistance and cannot be used to modify/maintain/construct facilities.  |

Date: 7-2023

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| purchase or construct kennels/pens/run lines for animals to be outside? |  |
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| Allowable Costs  | Pets             | Service Animals | Canine Advocates | Emotional Support Animals |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Pet food while the client is in an emergency domestic/sexual violence shelter/boarding   | Yes <sup>1</sup> | Yes             | NA               | Yes <sup>1</sup>          |
| Pet Food for non-shelter clients   | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Veterinary care while animal is in shelter / boarding  | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Veterinary care while animal is not in shelter / boarding  | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Boarding of animals  | Yes <sup>2</sup> | NA              | NA               | Yes <sup>2</sup>          |
| Shelter modifications to board animals on site   | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Vaccinations- w/o boarding   | No               | Yes             | NA               | No                        |
| Vaccinations required before boarding  | No               | N/A             | NA               | No                        |
| Veterinary care if in TSH housing  | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Deposits for housing   | Yes              | Yes             | NA               | Yes                       |
| Deposits for TSH housing   | Yes              | Yes             | NA               | Yes                       |
| Monthly animal fee for when the client is not in Emergency/TSH housing/shelter   | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Monthly animal damage fee for while in TSH housing   | Yes              | Yes             | NA               | Yes                       |
| Litter and boxes for cats while clients are in shelter   | Yes              | Yes             | NA               | Yes                       |
| Litter and boxes for cats exited from shelter / boarding   | No               | No              | NA               | No                        |
| Purchase or construction of kennels/pens/run lines for animals to be outside   | No               | Yes             | NA               | No                        |
| <sup>1</sup> Not allowable in any grants funded by VOCA<br><sup>2</sup> \$1,200 per year cap per client combined for all costs |                  |                 |                  |                           |

**References**

<https://www.aspc.org/blog/protecting-all-victims-domestic-violence>

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHOGPetOwnership.pdf>

[https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_qa.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)

