



Rusk Veterinary Grant Guidelines

Purpose:

Rusk Veterinary Grants provide funds to supplement a veterinarian's charitable care for animals of low-income families or for families that have an undue financial burden due to extenuating circumstances. A primary goal of the Rusk Veterinary Grant is to keep the human-animal bond intact by resolving medical issues that will restore the animal's health.

The Rusk Veterinary Grant is a last-resort financial option intended to support a one-time surgical or medical intervention for an animal with a good to excellent prognosis. Without such emergency funding, an otherwise treatable animal might be unnecessarily euthanized, relinquished, and/or endure excessive suffering.

Veterinarian Eligibility

To be eligible for a Rusk Veterinary Grant, the veterinarian must:

- Must be a licensed veterinarian and be a TVMA Member in good standing
- Practice must be located in the state of Texas
- A reasonable effort must be made to discount services in Rusk Veterinary Grant cases
- Provide the patient's medical records

Client Eligibility

A case selected by the applying veterinary practice must meet the following criteria:

- The client must reside in the state of Texas
- The client demonstrates financial need and can make a financial contribution toward the cost of the animal's care.
- There must be evidence of a significant and compelling human-animal bond between the client and patient.
- The client is willing and able to provide recommended follow-up care
- Staff members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation and Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation Board of Trustees are ineligible for a Rusk Veterinary Assistance Grant.

Grant Funding

- Is subject to available funding
- Is limited to \$2,000 per veterinary practice per calendar year; may be approved up to \$1,000 per case
- Is limited to one grant per household unless a special exemption is provided by the Executive Director and/or the appointed designee
- Must be used for a one-time surgical or medical intervention that will improve the prognosis and well-being of the patient, and is not meant for treating chronic conditions
- Cannot be used for a treatment that was rendered more than two weeks prior to submission of application
- May not be used for spay/neuter procedures unless spay/neuter is essential to the continued health of the animal
- Will take the animal's age and other underlying issues under consideration in the determination of the Rusk Veterinary Grant award.

Examples of Appropriate Cases with Otherwise Healthy and Stable Animals			
Stage 1 Heartworm treatment	Humane euthanasia	Cystotomy for urolith	Abscessed tooth or acute dental issue
Uncomplicated pneumothorax	Parvovirus (stable patient with good to excellent prognosis)	Simple fracture repair with excellent prognosis or amputation	Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus (GDV) or foreign body
Examples of Inappropriate Cases			
Chronic renal failure	Chemotherapy or amputation due to osteosarcoma or complex fracture repair	Recurring uroliths or urethral obstruction	Hemoabdomen due to cancer
Diabetic ketoacidosis	Oral cancer	Congestive heart failure	Private cremation

Application

1. Applications are available on the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation website (www.tvmf.org) by clicking on the "Rusk Veterinary Grants" tab. Applications may also be obtained from the TVMF office at 512-452-4224.
2. The Rusk Veterinary Grant application must be submitted by:
 - a. Fax to 512-452-6633
 - b. Email to Ltibbon@tvma.org
 - c. Mail to: Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation, ATTN: Rusk Veterinary Grants, 8104 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754
3. The TVMF Grant Committee will review all applications and grant proposals. The applying veterinarian(s) must be reachable during the review process in the event of additional questions.

Grant Awards

Notification of grant awards are made directly by the TVMF Director and/or appointed designee within five business days (Monday through Friday, excluding major holidays) of receiving the application. 24 to 48-hour notification applies only to applicants that are in a life-threatening situation.

Post Approval

1. Patient medical records must be submitted to TVMF from date of original visit and include rechecks as related to the approved treatment.
2. The veterinary clinic will collect the signed release and consent form from the client and submit it to TVMF
3. Grant payments are paid directly to the veterinary clinic upon TVMF's receipt of a final invoice and the signed release and consent form. Payment will NOT be made directly to the client.
4. Payment will not be made to other providers beyond the veterinary clinic associated with the grant award.