

GENERAL ORDER 54.4.2

CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: 54.4.1

SUMMARY

The CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund is a funding stream consisting of monies donated by the community intended to provide resources to meet the limited and specified emergency medical needs/costs for emergency veterinary treatment of K-9 companion animal (pets) in Springfield. Funds from the account are to be used for found or abandoned pets in need of emergency care when owners are not known or the animal is suspected to be stray.

DISCUSSION

The CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund is a community fund of donated monies intended to fund the costs associated with the emergency veterinary treatment of found, abandoned or lost companion animal pets. These funds will be used to provide police with the ability to make responsible and humane funding decisions concerning treatment and/or euthanasia of pets in emergency circumstances in Springfield. The CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund was started with an initial donation of money collected from Springfield City employees for this purpose.

Officers are encouraged to consider these funds as a community resource to be used for the humane treatment of lost, found or abandoned K-9 companion animals at times when owners or responsible parties cannot be identified and the animal is in critical need of veterinary treatment. Treatment may include euthanasia as recommended by attending veterinary staff and/or the watch commander. Upon approval, a Command Officer will use their purchasing card to address the immediate need. An itemized receipt for services rendered will be retained and submitted to the Chief's Office Supervisor.

POLICY

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Officers/employees who identify a K-9 companion animal in need of emergency or critical veterinary treatment will notify the watch commander, who will assess the proposed or contemplated treatment of the pet. Care will be taken to clarify the extent to which care is needed via the consulting veterinary staff person. Additional consideration will be given to any ongoing treatment costs as well as the amount of funds available within the fund at the time the request is made.

Watch commanders should weigh the cost(s) of treatment with favorable outcomes. These considerations may include, but are not limited to the following; the age of the pet, the expected quality of life for the pet, the temperament of the pet with respect to its suitability for adoption once medically stable.

The Watch Commander will then submit the itemized receipt for the services rendered to the Chief's Office Supervisor, who will reconcile the purchase to the CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund. The name, breed and any pertinent identifying details will be added to the form in order to measure and/or share the success of the CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund.

Generally, individual applications of funds will not exceed \$500 per incident. Command Officers retain the ability to exceed this amount if specific circumstances dictate.

If the CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund balance falls below \$500 the watch commander will fall back to emergency veterinary treatment decision protocols established prior to the establishment of the CHETT Pet Emergency Vet Fund funding stream. Refer to V:drive folder ACO Procedures When Out of Office.

Richard Lewis
Chief of Police