



ABOUT THE TOMMIE FUND

The Tommie Fund

Richmond Animal Welfare Foundation d/b/a Richmond Animal Care and Control (RACC) Foundation (“RACCF”) established the Tommie Fund for the purpose of offsetting the costs of emergency medical care services incurred by municipal shelters and public animal control agencies in Virginia who have stray, unclaimed and/or abandoned animals in need of emergency medical care services.

Eligibility

Who We Cover:

To be eligible for the Tommie Fund program, you must be a municipal shelter or public animal control agency in Virginia with a veterinary care budget of up to \$150,000 per year. Each shelter and agency applying to be a part of the Tommie Fund program must provide a copy of its budget and proof of funding with its application. Upon receipt of an application from a shelter or agency, the Board of Directors of RACCF will review the application and determine whether such shelter or agency is eligible for participation. A member of the Tommie Fund’s team of volunteers (each, a “Tommie Fund Volunteer”) will notify each such shelter or agency as to the Board’s determination.

The Tommie Fund will consider funding requests from participating shelters and agencies who have stray, unclaimed and/or abandoned animals in need of emergency medical care services.

The Tommie Fund does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex or race. The Tommie Fund reserves the right to deny funding to anyone for any reason. Please read the complete application for details on the application process.

What We Cover:

The Tommie Fund provides need-based financial assistance for the benefit of participating shelters and agencies who have stray, unclaimed and/or abandoned animals in need of emergency medical care. Depending on the level of funding available and the urgency of the needed treatment, the Tommie Fund will determine whether or not to pay for all or a portion of the animal’s care.

The Tommie Fund will use the following criteria to determine whether funds will be disbursed for an animal’s care:

- The financial need of the shelter or agency; and
- The opinion of the treating veterinarian as to the medical necessity, urgency and prognosis for the treatment needed.



After consulting with the veterinarian to determine the immediacy of care, the Board of Directors of RACCF will determine the level of funding, if any, to be provided by the Tommie Fund. Grants will normally be limited to a maximum of \$3,000 per request for assistance but the Board of Directors of RACCF has the discretion to increase this amount in certain circumstances. Funding may be less than that amount depending on the funds needed and the funding available.

When the Board of Directors of RACCF approves funding for an animal on behalf of the Tommie Fund, a Tommie Fund Volunteer will contact the shelter or agency requesting funds and, if such shelter or agency is able to pay the balance of treatment costs (if any) over and above the amount contributed by the Tommie Fund, then the Tommie Fund Volunteer will notify the treating veterinarian that funds have been approved for the necessary procedure. At that point, treatment can be scheduled, and the Tommie Fund will then disburse the approved funds directly to the veterinarian.

What We Do Not Cover:

The Tommie Fund will **NOT** provide funding for any of the following services:

- Basic care including, but not limited to, spay and neuter surgeries, food or basic pet supplies, deworming, grooming, flea treatments, vaccinations or routine veterinary care.
- Any bills already paid.
- Any animals that have been permanently adopted or animals owned by breeders.
- The cost of veterinarian visits for animals who have not yet been seen by a veterinarian. Any shelter or agency requesting funding must have already taken their animal to a veterinarian for diagnosis and must have a written estimate for the needed procedures.
- Declawing, ear cropping or debarking surgeries.

Rules for Requesting Financial Assistance

- All grants are generally capped at a maximum of \$3,000 per request for assistance, and often lesser amounts are granted. Applicants must be able to fund the rest of the procedure or treatment to be eligible for a grant. The Tommie Fund cannot hold funds for applicants who are not been able to come up with the remainder of funding needed at the time of the procedure or treatment.
- Each grant must be used for emergency medical care for stray, unclaimed and/or abandoned animals **ONLY**. In order to apply for grants, a participating shelter or agency must email the Tommie Fund at **Christie.Peters@richmondgov.com** and include in its email (i) a description of the procedure and/or treatment, (ii) a copy of the written cost estimate for the needed procedures and/or treatment from the veterinarian, and (iii) the name and address for the treating veterinarian.
- The participating veterinarian will be required to consult with Tommie Fund Volunteers regarding the subject animal's diagnosis, prognosis and recommended treatment.
- If treatment is likely to cause an animal suffering with little hope of a good long-term prognosis (as determined by the treating veterinarian), the Tommie Fund will not cover the procedure.



Please note that RACCF and Tommie Fund Volunteers will not be able to advise any shelter or agency **EVER** in any way regarding the medical treatment, diagnosis or prognosis of any animal. If an applicant has medical questions about its animal's condition, such applicant must consult with its treating veterinarian

- A Tommie Fund Volunteer will contact such shelter or agency regarding approval or denying of funding. Please note that if funding is denied, the Tommie Fund Volunteers and RACCF will not be obligated to discuss the reason for denial of funding with you or to reconsider the Tommie Fund' decision. It is expected that most denials of funding will be based on lack of funding.
- While the application process is in part based on the subjective judgment of veterinarians and the Board of Directors of RACCF, the Tommie Fund feels that these basic guidelines are clear, unbiased and necessary, and the Tommie Fund will make the most ethical decisions possible with the information that it has in each circumstance.

A Few Things to Keep in Mind

- The Tommie Fund expects that it may receive multiple requests for assistance each day, and it may take the Tommie Fund Volunteers some time to respond to each email request. All shelters and agencies must be advised that any requests for assistance made on a federal holiday or after 5pm EST might not be received until the next business day and ***the Tommie Fund cannot be held responsible for any loss, harm or damage that may result from any delay in responding.***
- No contributions are **EVER** given directly to individuals, shelters or agencies. The Tommie Fund **ONLY** sends funding directly to the treating veterinarians **ONLY IF** the shelter's or agency's request for assistance is approved and treatment is scheduled. Funding resources are limited, and the Tommie Fund makes every effort to use limited funds in the most responsible way.
- Each participating shelter or agency that is in a surrounding county of Richmond will be required to use Virginia Veterinary Centers ("VVC") for any animal's medical services that will be paid, in whole or in part, by a Tommie Fund grant. Participating shelters or agencies located outside of the surrounding counties are encouraged to use VVC for the same such purposes if logistically possible.
- Any misrepresentation or fraud in this Application will result in denial of a request and barring from the program in the future. Further, any funds obtained through fraud or misrepresentation must be repaid to the Tommie Fund in full.
- Abusive, rude or disrespectful applicants will not receive assistance, and will be barred from receiving any assistance in the future.