

# Pet Food Assistance Program



Nevada Humane Society's Pet Food Assistance program provides pet food to individuals and families under the following four circumstances:

- **One Time Assistance** For individuals or families who are experiencing a sudden/unexpected financial hardship and cannot afford to purchase food for their pets.
- **Temporary Assistance** for individuals or families who are experiencing temporary financial hardship and cannot afford to purchase food for their pets.
- **Long-Term Assistance** may, on a case-by-case basis, be made available to individuals who are disabled, on public assistance, or meet specific other criteria and are unable to afford to purchase pet food.
- **Feral Cat Colony Caregivers** are eligible to receive food for their cat colonies providing the cats are spayed or neutered or in the process of being spayed or neutered through Community Cats free spay/neuter program for outdoor cats. If you are feeding outdoor cats, please contact the NHS Animal Help Desk for information on getting your outdoor cats spayed or neutered free of charge.

The program is not intended for those with the financial means to purchase pet food. The purpose of this application process is to prevent abuse of the program by eliminating people who can afford to buy pet food or those who are deliberately breeding animals. It is not to make things difficult for those who are deserving of assistance.

## **Applying for Assistance**

If you feel you may be eligible for assistance under one of the above circumstances, please complete the Pet Food Assistance Application.

If you are applying in person, your application will be given a preliminary review by staff and in most cases; you will be allowed to obtain food today.

## **Food Distribution Times**

Food is distributed two days a week at the following times:

- Wednesdays from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Sundays from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

If you are unable to make it on one of these days and times, please call 775-856-2000 ext. 302 to see if other arrangements can be made.

## **Policies:**

Eligibility: Only one individual per household is eligible to receive pet food. Recipients must demonstrate financial need.

- **Quantity:** We strive to provide a one month supply of pet food. Food supplies may be limited and we cannot guarantee that food will be available.
- **Duration:** Temporary Assistance clients may return once a month, receiving assistance for a three-month period. Long-term Assistance clients and Feral Cat Colony Caregivers may be eligible to receive food for a longer period of time, but will be asked to update their information on file every 3 months.

- Requests: We will *consider* special requests for certain formulas or flavors of dog food (i.e. senior, grain free, etc.), but are only able to give what we have at the time the request is made.
- Resale: Pet food obtained through the program is not to be resold by anyone in the household or by any third party. If the pet food is resold, you will be ineligible to receive pet food through the program again.
- Intact pets: We are happy to assist or make referrals for low-cost or free spay/neuter services. For more information, call 775-856-2000 ext. 333.
- Feral Cats: If you are feeding feral cats or are participating in Trap-Neuter-Return and are picking up food for a colony, please tell us how many cats you are feeding. If the cats are not spayed or neutered, please ask to speak to our Animal Help Desk Staff. They will provide information on free spay/neuter services.
- Confidentiality: We ask for personal information on the application. This information is kept in the strictest confidence and is not shared with any other individual or any other agency.
- Denial and Exceptions: NHS reserves the right to make exceptions based on individual need, to require proof of spay/neuter, and to refuse anyone under any circumstance at any time.
- Liability Release: By accepting food, the recipient and all household members agree to release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless Nevada Humane Society and its staff, volunteers, and benefactors in the event that the recipient's pet(s) becomes ill or develop an upset stomach.

Please complete the Pet Food Assistance Application and turn it in at the Adoption Desk or send it to Nevada Humane Society, 2825 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502 or if you are applying at the Carson City shelter please bring your application to 549 Airport Road, Carson City, NV 89701 or call them at 775-887-2171.

If you have any questions please call us at: 775-856-2000 ext.301.