

FUNDING GUIDELINES FOR AAFMED

AAFMED will accept applications* for assistance for *rescued* German Shepherd dogs or *rescued* German Shepherd mixes (must predominantly look and act like a GSD) from rescue groups. (*We reserve the right to refuse any application)

Applications must include current pictures of the dog, your contact information, copies of the vet bill (stating whether or not it has been paid) and must be submitted no more than 30 days after the expense was incurred. **AAFMED will NOT pay for the full cost of any procedures.** You, as the requesting organization/rescue, will have to pay for a portion of the costs yourselves, whether through fund raising efforts or out of your own funds.

AAFMED will provide monetary assistance toward emergency medical expenses for German Shepherd dogs who are abandoned or rescued cases (not privately owned) and for who no other funding is available or funding is insufficient. (You must meet the guidelines and be approved by **AAFMED Board** in order to receive funding).

Each application will be considered on its own merits, on available funding, and on whether or not the dog is deemed adoptable. Please look at the following guidelines **prior to submitting your application** to see if your dog is eligible for assistance from **AAFMED**.

Applications can be submitted to **AAFMED** at the following:

Email the application to gsd@arfrescue.com

OR

Mail to: ARF German Shepherd Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 44
Lodi, WI 53555
Put ATTN: **AAFMED** on the envelope

GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The GSD is in a situation where it requires emergency medical treatment and is in a rescue situation. (Privately owned GSDs/mixes are ineligible). For purposes of this fund, rescue situations are the following:
 - a. When the dog does not have a permanent home and is taken in by an organized rescue group.
 - b. When the dog has been surrendered to a shelter and the shelter has sole custody of the dog and will be placing it with rescue or adopt it out through the shelter.

- c. When a vet clinic has had a dog turned over (i.e. surrendered) to them because the owner cannot afford treatment or no longer wants the dog and the vet clinic intends to treat the dog (at a discount) and then either adopt it out through the clinic or turn it over to an organized breed rescue or shelter to be adopted out.
2. Medical conditions that are acquired after the dog is already in rescue may or may not be covered. Medical conditions that are considered terminal are not covered. Medical conditions that are not life threatening are not covered. Routine shots, tests for parasites, spay or neuter, heartworm tests and preventative, worming, fleas, baths, boarding, and food will not be covered by **AAFMED**. The GSD in question must be adoptable (temperament evaluation must have been done and a copy provided to **AAFMED**), be expected to recover from the illness/injury and must be in a rescue or shelter (vet clinic) situation. **AAFMED** will not cover any expenses for any privately owned GSDs.
3. The dog must either be a purebred German Shepherd or a German Shepherd mix that embodies the temperament of a GSD and look predominantly like a GSD. Mixes who do not meet this requirement will not be available for funds from **AAFMED**. Pictures, bio, vet records and copies of the rescue's mission statement as well as adoption contract and (if applicable) 501c3 status should be included in the application for funding. Also include your website address.
4. A licensed veterinarian must assess all injuries, ailments and must have reasonable expectation that the dog in question is healthy enough to recover from said illness/injury and will be able to enjoy a quality of life after treatment. You must include copies of all vet records, treatment estimates, paid bills etc. with your application.
5. The dog must show no signs of aggression towards animals or human beings must have no bite history and must be considered adoptable. (Temperament testing/evaluation must be done on candidates).
6. The dog will be adoptable at the end of the emergency treatment to be funded.
7. The dog must not be terminally ill; nor suffer from quality of life issues.
8. There is no age limit – each case will be judged on its own merits. We will not discriminate against a senior dog, provided they can, after treatment, lead a quality of life.
9. No funds will be released to individuals. **AAFMED** will provide funding to vet clinics directly, vet hospitals directly, rescue organizations directly, or shelters directly. We will not reimburse individuals for expenses incurred in the treatment of the dog.
10. No funds will be released without specific assurances (i.e. contract) that if the animal is not altered at the time of the treatment, it will be altered as soon as it is medically feasible. NO funds will be released without this contract being signed by the responsible parties. **AAFMED** will not pay for spay or neutering. If the cost of spaying/neutering the GSD is included in the bill from the vet, that cost will be deducted from the total cost of funding **AAFMED** will provide. **AAFMED** does not pay for the entire cost of treatment for any animal. The rescue organization/shelter etc is responsible for a **minimum** of at least 1/3 of the

cost of treatment for the animal applicant. You will be sent a follow up questionnaire that you agree to fill out and return to **AAFMED within 30 days of receipt** or else you will forfeit any future funding by us.

11. Applications for treatment of congenital orthopedic conditions will be considered with the following additional requirements:
 - a. If the funding request is for surgery for correction of a congenital orthopedic condition, if the veterinarian has assessed the condition and is of the opinion that the quality of the GSDs life and adoptability will be significantly compromised without the surgery/treatment, as opposed to other maintenance treatment options.
12. If the funding request is for non-emergency orthopedic surgery, all other options must have been investigated first before applying for assistance (both surgical and non-surgical, traditional and alternative may be included). Funding for certain types of surgeries common for GSDs such as TPLO, ACL tears, etc may be considered if there are no other options for rehabilitation for the dog. The prognosis must be satisfactory for recovery and quality of life. Please be aware of this when you apply, as **AAFMED** will not fully fund the cost of the procedure. You must be willing to fund part of these types of procedures through your organization.
13. **AAFMED** may require that you get a second opinion on the GSD's condition prior to making a decision about funding. You will be solely responsible for funding any second opinion requests made by **AAFMED**.
14. The dog must be symptomatic, i.e. show signs of discomfort, pain etc. in order to be eligible for funding. **AAFMED** will not fund any animal that is asymptomatic based on just x-rays or clinical diagnosis that they may have an issue down the line. There are many dogs that live with hip dysplasia and never experience pain or lameness. **AAFMED** is designed to help those dogs out where quality of life is being impaired by their condition, not to fund preventative medical procedures.
15. Because of the high cost of orthopedic procedures, we will encourage candidates who are seeking **AAFMED** funds to investigate clinics/vets in their area who will provide the same service at a discount for rescue.
16. **AAFMED** will not provide any funding for medical treatment on personal pets. A dog adopted from a rescue group or shelter with the intent of providing a permanent home for that dog is not eligible for funding. However, in the following cases funding may be considered for recently adopted dogs provided the application meets all other **AAFMED** requirements:
 - a) **INDIVIDUAL RESCUES**: Any dog that came into a rescue when it was sick or injured must have had a veterinary examination at the time of rescue or shortly thereafter to determine the dogs' condition. (Two weeks is our optimal guideline).
 - b) **SHELTERS**: Any dog surrendered to a shelter when it was sick or injured must have had a veterinary (not shelter employees observations, but an exam by a licensed vet) within two weeks of the surrender date (this does include "stray" time the animal must do at the shelter) in order to qualify for any funding. The shelter

must be willing to surrender the dog to a breed rescue should they not be able to rehabilitate the dog themselves. The shelter will be responsible for a portion of the dog's medical expenses prior to releasing the dog to a rescue. IF the dog requires ongoing medical treatment after the rescue takes on the responsibility of the dog, it is up to the shelter and rescue to work out any financial arrangements. **AAFMED** will pay a portion of the medical expenses for the dog in question, but may not choose to pay for on-going medical treatment once the dog is in rescue unless the rescue meets the specific requirements for funding.

17. **AAFMED** is unable to fund the entire cost of treatment for a dog that is in foster or adoptive home. The foster/adoptive home is expected to pay for a portion of the treatment. **AAFMED** will require receipts documenting these expenditures.
18. **PLACEMENTS THROUGH RESCUE:** If an ill or injured dog is taken into rescue by an established organization, and that rescue applies for funding, but finds an adoptive home in the interim. **AAFMED** will consider funding a portion of the dogs medical care **PROVIDED** the adoptive home is willing to rehabilitate the dog in their home. This will only be done in instances where the adoption could be jeopardized if funding for the medical needs was not available.

If you feel that your dog meets our criteria for assistance, you may proceed to the application or read the article on the decision making process.