



DuPage County  
Office of the County Board  
421 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187-3978

**MEMBER INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION** - Please complete all sections for submission

**SECTION I Organization Information**

Organization	DuPage County Animal Services
Contact Person	Laura Flamion
Address	2255 Manchester Road
City	Wheaton
Phone Number	630-407-2806
Email	laura.flamion@dupagecounty.gov

**SECTION II Project Description**

Project Title	A Pawsitive Pathway
Cost of the Project	\$25,000
Brief Description of the Scope of Initiative	The department has seen an increase in people surrendering pets due to temporary hardship such as short term hospitalization, domestic violence, housing insecurity, or unable to afford critical veterinary care. A Pawsitive Pathway offers temporary pet boarding and other veterinary services to DuPage County residents with the goal of keeping pets with their people instead of surrendering to the shelter.
Desired Outcomes	To help DuPage County residents keep their pets healthy and safe during temporary personal hardships while allowing the resident a reprieve from the additional stress of pet care so they can seek human services support. To reduce the number of animals entering the shelter that need to be permanently rehomed.

**SECTION III Signature**

Member Name	Grant Eckhoff (\$10,000), Sheila Rutledge (\$10,000), Saba Haider (\$5,000)	
District	4, 5, 6	
Signature		

**SECTION IV Supplemental Documents**

Please attach the following (if applicable)

- Letters of Engagement from all involved organizations
- Vendor Ethics Disclosures
- Bid Documents
- Proof of Good Standing with IL Secretary of State for all partner organizations
- Tax Documents (such as W-9 forms, where applicable)



**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

## ANIMAL SERVICES

DuPage County Board  
421 N County Farm Rd  
Wheaton, IL 60187

June 30, 2025

DuPage County Board Members:

DuPage County Animal Services is submitting a request to consider funding for a pet safety net program called A Pawsitive Pathway. This program is for pet owners experiencing personal and financial hardship, allowing them time and financial relief to seek resources to address their unique situation while removing the added stress of pet care. Temporary, confidential pet housing and resource programs can make all the difference for vulnerable families.

The department has seen an increase in people surrendering pets due to temporary hardship such as short-term hospitalization, domestic violence, housing insecurity, or financial challenges with affording critical veterinary care. This program would help reduce the number animals the shelter has to rehome, allow the pet owner an opportunity to get social services for themselves, and make sure pets in our community are healthy, safe and have the option to stay with their family.

Too many times our department receives a request from the Health Department or other agencies that are trying to admit a patient, but the patient is denying care because they do not have someone to care for their pet. We can give them the peace of mind to get the medical care they need and be reunited with their pet afterwards.

Often our department accepts pets that are clearly loved by their owners, but surrendered because they can't afford veterinary care. We can help them get care and then save on the costs of rehoming while also allowing that pet to stay with the family it knows and loves.

We understand the Member Initiative Program is reimbursement-based, and we will expend the funds and follow the proper rules to receive reimbursement. We are requesting consideration in the amount of \$50,000 to fund the program. Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Laura Harmon  
Administrator





**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

# ANIMAL SERVICES

## A Pawsitive Pathway

A safety net program designed to help DuPage County families keep their pets healthy and safe while addressing their own unique needs during times of hardship.

### Desired Outcomes:

- DuPage County residents will be able to seek human support services without the added stress of pet care.
- Fewer animals will be surrendered to the shelter for permanent rehoming services.
- The program aligns with DuPage County's Strategic Plan objectives of Community Well-Being in ensuring all county residents can access services and programs that lead to independent and healthy lives.

### Program Details:

- Pet owners will execute a boarding agreement of up to 30 days. DuPage County Animal Services will have an option to extend the boarding agreement at their discretion. Boarding will have a cost of \$15/day for the purpose of reporting grant expenditures.
- Boarding an animal will also make those animals eligible to receive a comprehensive wellness exam and any necessary vaccines, microchipping or other medically necessary services. Wellness exam and other veterinary services will be priced at competitive non-profit clinic rates for the purpose of reporting grant expenditures.
- Owned pets that require critical medical care can be evaluated for admission to the program after completing a questionnaire, providing historical medical records (if available), and after an exam by staff veterinarians at DuPage County Animal Services. If medical services can be provided at DuPage County Animal Services, those rates will be at competitive non-profit clinic rates. If medical services need to be provided by 3<sup>rd</sup> party veterinary providers, the selection of a provider will be based on appointment availability compared to procedure urgency, expertise of any specialty medicine providers, and competitive pricing for procedures. Receipts for any 3<sup>rd</sup> party services will be included in reporting grant expenditures.

