

West Columbia Gorge Humane Society has been awarded \$2500 from the CARES Community Impact Grant! CARES is the independent, charitable, and philanthropic arm of Finance of America Companies. Their platform connects people, charitable resources and ideas, to unite behind common goals and spark positive change throughout the nation. These funds will help support our community Emergency Veterinary Assistance Program which aids locally owned pets with medical issues. WCGHS applied for this grant to help keep pets and their people together even when they cannot afford veterinary care. We all know that pets provide comfort and companionship to their people, especially during trying times.

WCGHS's community Emergency Veterinary Assistance Program is structured such that those in need must qualify financially, meaning they must be of low-income status and/or facing hardship. Folks seeking assistance will be fully vetted before being accepted into the program. Those who qualify will receive veterinary care from a private practice veterinary clinic of their choice or we can refer them to a clinic.

"WCGHS is proud to offer emergency veterinary assistance to folks in our community. We believe pets and people belong together and we do everything in our power to provide resources to keep them together rather than pet owners having to relinquish their pets to an animal shelter simply because they can't afford a life-saving procedure for their pet." said Micki Simeone, Executive Director.

Meet one of our recipients: During the ice event we had last winter, we were contacted by a single mom of four. Their cat had broken his leg and the leg needed to be amputated. It was more than the family could handle financially so they needed our help. Due to the ice storm and being right before the holidays, veterinarians were even harder to find and the prices were higher than usual. Because of our Community Veterinary Assistance Program, we had funds to use for the emergency surgery. The cat was back home with his family for the holidays. This single mom was grateful that her children could have a happy Christmas with their precious cat - the alternative would have been devastating for them all. This happy ending would not have been possible without funds from organizations such as CARES.

Please visit us at [wcggs.org](http://wcggs.org) to learn more about our work and community



