

More Pet Owners Turn to 'Lucky' Fund

Economy leads more dog owners to seek assistance from Michigan State University's fund.

Posted: August 14, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine recently reported that it has seen an increase need for its Lucky Fund due to the economic climate, which, in turn, has caused the fund to rapidly decrease.

"The fund helps subsidize veterinary bills for owners whose pets have a good chance at recovery and otherwise cannot afford the care and cannot obtain credit to finance it," said Patrick LeBlanc, DVM, director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. "With the economy, we're finding more and more owners who need to access it, and the fund as a result is very low right now."

Fewer people are also donating, he added.

The fund is used several times a month and generally helps about 20 to 25 pet owners a year. However, given the current situation, MSU now has to be more selective in who receives the fund to ensure the funds aren't depleted completely, LeBlanc said.

Those interested in donating to the fund can write a check out to Michigan State University and write "Lucky Fund" on the check memo line. LeBlanc said every penny goes toward the fund. Contributions are also tax deductible.

Checks can be mailed to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Business Office, Room A198, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., 48824.