

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SCOTTIES ROCK PAY IT FORWARD FUND (PIF)

What is the Pay it Forward Fund?

The Pay It Forward Fund (PIF) is a Scotties Rock Program to help Scotties and their human companions who are in immediate need for extraordinary veterinary expenses and who would not be able to receive veterinary treatment without financial assistance from SRF. **We are unable to provide funds for routine care, such as vaccinations, dental cleaning, spaying/neutering or grooming.** Through auctions, donations and other activities we raise funds for our members and their Scotties in need around the world.

Why is it called PIF and not something else?

The idea is to give a helping hand whenever possible and to return the favor by participating in our fundraising auctions and other activities, such as holding Facebook birthday fundraisers to benefit SRF, donating to SRF, and writing testimonials about our assistance. This will help us continue to help other Scottie families. It's an informal arrangement and since its inception in 2016 it has worked out well.

Who administers the PIF?

The Board of Directors of Scotties Rock Foundation manage the Pay It Forward Fund. All decisions are made by a unanimous or majority vote of the Board, in accordance with the Pay It Forward Fund Guidelines and the circumstances of each case.

Is the PIF Fund confidential?

Yes, any requests for assistance, decisions regarding an application and disbursements are treated as confidential. We will not disclose your information to any third party other than for verification of your request. PIF recipients may, and sometimes do, express appreciation by posting on Scotties Rock Facebook page. Although this is not required, testimonials have spread the word of the Foundation's services and have generated donations.

Who is eligible to apply for a PIF grant?

Any member of the Scotties Rock and Scotties Rock Foundation groups in good standing is eligible. "Good standing" is generally meant to be a current member of Scotties Rock and Scotties Rock Foundation prior to requesting assistance. PIF is considered a **"last resort" safety net** to provide help **when all other possibilities have been exhausted**. It is not a large fund nor is it intended to be a substitute for personal responsibility, pet insurance or other forms of public and private assistance. PIF is set up for Scotties in immediate need for extraordinary veterinary expenses who will not be able to receive treatment without PIF assistance. On a case-by-case basis the Foundation will consider assisting rescue groups with a Scottie in need of financial assistance when doing so will help alleviate the financial burden to the rescue group. Members of the rescue group requesting assistance must be members in good standing of Scotties Rock and Scottie's Rock Foundation.

How do you apply?

Any member can request PIF assistance either for themselves or on behalf of another member who may be in need. Requests for PIF assistance are made by completion of the application found in the file section of Scotties Rock or Scotties Rock Foundation groups on Facebook or on our website, scottiesrockfoundation.org.

To facilitate consideration of the request **all** sections of the Application must be completed and **copies of a written estimate from all treating veterinarians and facilities and/or bills must be attached** to the completed Application. Send the Application and estimate/bills to Scottie Rocks Foundation via Facebook Messenger, email: ourscottiesrock@gmail.com, or mail to the address on the Application. **All information must be completed in full for the application to receive consideration.** Each item marked with an * must be answered. Incomplete applications will be returned but may be resubmitted once all information is provided.

Please include:

- Your name and contact information,
- The name and contact information of at least one other Scotties Rock member that has knowledge about your situation,
- Information about your situation and need,
- Confirmation that you've applied for and/or used other financial needs and options,
- The type of assistance you are requesting: medical expenses, surgical procedure, etc., as well as the amount you are requesting,
- The name and phone number of all treating veterinarians and facilities for verification of need, as well as written estimates for services or bill,
- If applicable, the name of pet insurance company, copay and coverage information.

Will your request be approved?

Requests for assistance are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Not all requests for assistance are granted. Once received, we review the application and attachments and assign a Board member as your liaison. The liaison will contact you and all treating veterinary clinics and facilities to obtain additional information. You will be kept informed during the process, which usually takes less than two days or less than eight hours in the event of an emergency. A quorum of the Board meets to discuss the application and, based on PIF guidelines, we will approve or deny it or request additional information.

How much of your request can you expect to get if approved?

Assistance depends on the need and the availability of Foundation funds. So that we can assist as many as possible our grant guidelines are as follows:

- New members who have joined Scotties Rock &/or Scotties Rock Foundation 30 days or less before the application date: the maximum allocation is \$500.00 per household.
- Established Membership (over 31 days): the maximum allocation of \$3,000 per household within a 12-month period. The lifetime maximum household allocation is \$6000.

If your application is granted, payment is usually made directly to all treating veterinarians and facilities. You may be asked to self-help by posting a Go Fund Me or other crowd-funding method, looking at other resources of assistance, perhaps getting a second opinion/estimate from another veterinarian, or other means.

Is Scotties Rock Foundation a non-profit?

Yes, **Scotties Rock Foundation** is a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity organization recognized by the IRS, effective August 16, 2016.

How is money raised?

Our philosophy is we never ask for charity. We raise money through online auctions, Buy It Now sales on Scotties Rock, and a percentage of sales from the SRF Zazzle store, so there are value exchanges rather than charity. It is an important distinction for us.

Do you accept donations?

Yes, absolutely! If someone would like to donate, we gratefully accept. Visit our website Scotties Rock Foundation and check out the ways you can donate. The website address is:
scottiesrockfoundation.org

What percentage of the funds raised are used for PIF vs for “operating expenses?”

Nearly 100%. There are minimal operating expenses because only volunteers oversee the PIF. Quarterly financial statements are published.

What does the phrase mean “for Scotties and humans in need?”

PIF is for helping Scotties. Of course, we realize there is most often a human companion attached to that Scottie, so we mention them both.

Can PIF help a dog other than a Scottie?

Unfortunately, we are unable to assist non-Scottie households with other breeds. Here is a website you can check to find other resources: <https://www.dogingtonpost.com/need-help-with-vet-bills-or-pet-food-there-are-resources-available/> We wish you all the best!

Is PIF like insurance?

No. PIF is limited in scope and resources so we can accommodate only modest requests. We do our best to strike a balance between your need and our available funds. Typically, it is a percentage of the request, but it really depends on the specifics of the case. In the event your insurance proceeds and/or social fundraising exceeds your needs for your situation, we ask you to consider a pay it forward donation to the Foundation up to the amount (or more if so inclined) of your assistance award.

How is this different from other fundraising sites or people asking for direct personal donations?

We ensure PIF funds raised are used exclusively for helping Scotties in immediate need: we verify the request, ask for receipts and pay the bills directly. Scotties Rock Foundation believes in transparency and publishes its financial statements on a quarterly basis. Scotties Rock Foundation is Platinum Seal Certified by Guidestar.org.

Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Here are some ways you can help.

There are several ways to Pay It Forward. One of the easiest ways is to post a Personal Testimonial on our Facebook page as to how the Foundation has helped you and your Scottie. Not comfortable doing that? That's perfectly fine. You can take part in our awesome online auctions either by donating an item or bidding on one of our many fabulous donations. If you love our auctions, please make sure you post our page on your Facebook page so others can join in. Having a birthday and don't know what you want for a gift? How about having a fundraiser on your FB page for SRF?

Be sure to visit our website scottiesrockfoundation.org where you can make a one time or a recurring monthly donation using PayPal. Our PayPal email is ourscottiesrock@gmail.com. In addition, when you're online, you might want to do a little shopping by visiting the Zazzle Store for Scotties Rock items. The possibilities to donate are endless. For more suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the Board members. Any way you choose, you will be helping Scotties.

Have more questions?

Drop a line to any of the Board members Scotties Rock, by email to ourscottiesrock@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger to any Board member. We're here to help!