

Dear Graduates,

We are pleased to share that in response to a request from the graduate council, CEO Thomas Panek and the board have generously approved an increase in the overall amount of the Graduate Assistance Fund by \$200 to help cover the costs of routine veterinary care and preventatives. Effective immediately, you can submit invoices for up to **\$500 total per calendar year** for your active guide under the Fund. If you have already used \$300 for this year, you now have access to \$200 in additional funds.

Note that because we are not a veterinary pharmacy, the Guiding Eyes Vet Hospital is no longer able to fill prescriptions through mail order as of July 1. For the health of your guides, we feel it is essential to remain on regular preventatives for intestinal parasites, heartworms, fleas and ticks, and a portion of this additional funding is intended to offset any additional unexpected expense associated with purchasing preventatives locally.

- We encourage you to purchase preventatives directly from your regular veterinary office so that you can make an informed, collective decision with your vet that factors in the direct current medical knowledge of your dog, your lifestyle and different medication prices and options.
- We currently use Sentinel for heartworm prevention, and Simparica or Vectra for flea and tick prevention, but there are a number of reliable veterinary products that may be recommended to you by your veterinarian.
- When your dog is prescribed medications, be sure to ask your vet about generic alternatives, and we recommend inquiring about available promotions or rebates.
- Manufacturers often provide additional guarantees for medications that are purchased directly from a veterinary office.

Graduates will continue to be able to purchase preventative medications from Guiding Eyes on campus at the end of class. If you routinely come to Guiding Eyes for veterinary care, you can continue to obtain medications at the time of your veterinary visit on campus.

If you have a mail order prescription currently in progress, it will be fulfilled. For those who obtain existing long-term prescription medication other than routine preventatives through the mail order program, please contact us at vetadmin@guidingeyes.org so that we work with you on an individual basis to determine the best way for you to obtain these prescriptions going forward.

We hope that with the increased graduate stipend, purchasing medications through your local vet will be a more seamless process for you. We are available to answer any questions that arise as a result of this change.

Sincerely,
Dr. Beth Brenninkmeyer
Chief Veterinary Officer