**Veterinary Financial Assistance (VFA) Program –**

**Alternative Financial Assistance**

You can help GDB contain the costs of our Veterinary Financial Assistance Program by taking advantage of other options that might be available to you:

* **Veterans** – If you are a veteran, the Veterans Administration may reimburse all veterinary costs for your guide. To access this service, contact your VIST coordinator.
* **Canadian Residents** – The Canadian National Institute for the Blind has a guide dog assistance fund which may be available to you. Contact the manager of the Guide Dog Assistance Fund at the CNIB head office in Toronto at 416-486-2500 or by email at GuideDog.Fund@cnib.ca. The application and additional information is also available on their website at www.cnib.ca.
* **Pet Insurance** – Pet insurance is another way to offset the costs of veterinary care. Generally premiums are paid to the insurance company. The client pays the veterinarian up front and then submits a claim to the insurance company and is reimbursed based on the details of their specific plan. Customer reviews and ratings of many U.S. and Canadian companies are available at [www.petinsurancereview.com](http://www.petinsurancereview.com).
* **IAADP** – The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) has a veterinary care partnership program. Membership in IAADP is $40 per year and details of the benefits available can be obtained on the IAADP website at [www.iaadp.org](http://www.iaadp.org/)
* **Flexible Spending Accounts –** If you are employed and your employer offers a Flexible Spending Account (IRS Section 125 Plan), you can contribute to that plan for guide dog expenses.