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

**Wellness Care**

GDB stongly recommends that your guide dog or K9 Buddy has an annual exam by your veterinarian, even if he or she is healthy and not having any noticible medical issues. The wellness exam is a very important part of keeping your dog healthy.

During any wellness visit, your veterinarian will do a comprehensive physical exam and update any vaccinations and other preventative care that may be due. Your veterinarian will also be checking your dog’s eyes, ears, teeth, skin, coat and weight. Through this process your veterinarian may notice a potential problem before it becomes a major issue. Use this visit to build a relationship with your veterinarian, ask questions about overall care of your dog, get informed about emergency planning, etc. As your dog ages, the annual check-ups and the relationship you have with your veterinarian will take on additional importance.

**Annual Wellness Allowance:**
VFA will reimburse up to $250 (USD) per fiscal year (July 1-June 30) for Wellness and Preventive Care. Pre-authorization is not required for these services. You are responsible for any wellness care that exceeds the $250 allowable annual limit. Wellness care includes:

* Routine annual physical exams
* Vaccinations
* Heartworm test

We strongly recommending synchronizing all preventative care into a single visit whenever possible. This will reduce the number of exams needed throughout the year and manage costs to help stay within the annual limit.

GDB will also reimburse for nail trims performed at your veterinary clinic, no authorization is needed.

Any other diagnostics, procedures, or medications sent home during the wellness exam require separate authorization, **even if the total cost of the visit is still under $250**. Please call for authorization during the appointment if during normal business hours, or the next business day for weekend or evening appointments.

**Senior Wellness (dogs 8 years of age and up):**

Routine laboratory screening, which may include bloodwork and a urinalysis is recommended annually for senior dogs. An additional $250 (USD) per year for this labwork is allowed without pre-authorization. Authorizaiton is needed for any specialized or additional labwork throughout the year.

**Heartworm and Flea Prevention (U.S):**

* Heartworm prevention medication will be reimbursed up to $150 per year. No pre-authorization is needed.
* Frontline Gold will be provided directly by GDB. Flea/tick prevention purchased elsewhere will NOT be reimburse, unless medically necessary and pre-authorized by GDB. Please contact the VFA department to request a refill of Frontline Gold when needed.

**Heartworm and Flea Prevention (Canada):**

* GDB will reimburse up to $250 (USD) annually toward the combined cost of flea/tick and heartworm prevention products. No pre-authorization is needed.

**VFA Program Coordinators can reached at 800-295-4050, option 2, option 2 to make pre-authorizations and answer questions about the VFA program.**