

FUNDRAISING IDEAS from IMOM.org (www.imom.org)

1. If your pet is predominantly a specific breed, do an Internet search for all clubs and rescues for that breed. Contact them all, see if they can help, or at least spread the word among their members.
2. Ask local stores (grocery, pet supply, vet/groomer, etc.) if you can put out a donation can for your pet.
3. Have a garage sale, yard sale, or craft sale. You may want to get your entire neighborhood involved — ask neighbors if they'd like to participate in a neighborhood yard sale, with a percentage of their proceeds to be contributed to your pet.
4. Hold bake sales at local pet shops, in front of grocery stores, perhaps a Wal-Mart, or another place that gets a lot of traffic. Ask friends, family, and neighbors to help bake items to sell. Dog biscuits and cookies are great items to offer.
5. Purchase a large container of suckers (Dum-Dums, Tootsie Pops, etc.) from a discount store such as Sam's Club or Costco. Sell them for 50 cents each, explaining that the funds will help your pet receive medical care. Talk to business owners (pet store, grocery, groomer, bank, hair salon, and restaurant) about setting up a table in front or in the lobby to sell to their patrons.
6. Host a car-wash or dog-wash. Recruit some friends, teens, and a few kids to hold signs.
7. Do odd jobs in your neighborhood for extra money — mow lawns, shovel driveways, rake leaves, clean houses, walk dogs, or pet-sit.
8. Create a poster with a photo of your pet, describing the medical care that he or she needs. Print out several copies and post at local businesses that you patronize (obtain permission first). You may also be able to hang a poster on a bulletin board or in the lunch room at your work (check with management first).
9. Ask a local business if they would be willing to offer a "Help My Pet" day to benefit your pet. For example, ask a groomer if s/he would be willing to give every client on a specific day a handout (provided by you) asking if that person can donate an extra dollar or two when they come to pick up their pet.
10. Ask two family members to donate \$5.00 each. Ask ten friends to donate \$5.00 each. Ask four businesses that you regularly frequent (dry cleaner, hair stylist, grocer, restaurant, etc.) to contribute \$25.00. Ask twenty people from your church to donate \$5.00 each. Ask your place of employment to donate \$25.00.

(You can also ask people you know to do the same thing, thus increasing donations.)

11. Can you cook and do you work? If you are known to be a good cook, plan a menu appropriate to the season (for example, sub sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, brownies). Calculate the cost of the food, add in a reasonable profit, then pick a day and sell your co-workers a “lunch ticket” for a day. Deliver the meal to them at lunchtime.
12. Check the newspaper each week to see if there are any pet expos or other pet related events going on in your area. If so, talk to some of the groups that are attending (they are likely listed on the event’s web site). Ask if you can provide something to sell in one of their booths to help raise funds your pet, and then make a donation to the group of a specific percent of the proceeds from the sale.
13. Many gasoline cards (Exxon, Mobil, Shell, and Amoco) will allow you to take a cash advance. If you have a gas card, check it out.
14. Collect bottles and cans and take them to a recycling center.
15. Take household items or jewelry to a resale or pawn shop.
16. If you own a car, many places will give you a title loan. If you own a home, check with your bank about a home equity loan.
17. Cut your monthly bills — switch to a free email account instead of one with a monthly charge. Drop your “land line” and use a cell phone only (or vice versa). Give up cable. Try to lower any other household bills — use less heat/air/gas/electricity.
18. Watch the small items — they really add up. The cup of coffee on the way to work, or soda at work, or fast-food lunch, can really add up each month.
19. Sell items on eBay (www.ebay.com). If you don’t have an eBay account, there are many services that will sell items for you, for a percentage of the sale price.
20. Sell items on craigslist (www.craigslist.org). Check your garage, closets, storage shed for items to sell.
21. Add a signature line to every personal email you send out, letting the recipient know you are trying to raise funds for your pet’s medical care. An example signature might be: “I am working to raise funds for non-routine veterinary care for my pet [NAME] who needs medical treatment for [CONDITION]. If you are able to make a donation of any size, I would be grateful.”

22. Create a blog using a free service such as Blogger (www.blogger.com). Post photos of your pet, tell stories about your pet, and explain that you are trying to raise funds for your pet's medical care, and ask for donations. Once the blog is set up, send the blog link to friends and family members, asking them to visit the blog to learn about your pet. Also ask them to forward the blog link to any of their friends who might be willing to donate. Be sure to keep the blog updated on a daily basis to let visitors know how your pet is, and how you are doing with the fundraising.
23. Try raising funds online at Fundable (www.fundable.com). Fundable lets groups of people pool funds to raise money. No one takes a risk when making a pledge: if a collection expires before reaching its total in pledges, Fundable deletes all pledges and never charges money. This lets people participate in a fundraiser without worrying about what other people will do. No one pays until and unless everyone else makes a pledge.