

Policy for Pet/Animal Care

The Victims Compensation Program will provide temporary payment to kennels, animal shelters, or veterinarians to board small household pets, such as cats and dogs, or larger animals, such as horses, when a victim is displaced from their home due to safety and security issues after a crime has occurred which prevents the victim from securing housing/shelter due to their pets. This policy will also provide limited financial assistance for a caretaker or hired hand to provide labor to assist the victim in the maintenance of a farm when the suspect was one of the laborers.

The Victims Compensation Program will consider payment for boarding small household pets or larger animals at local kennels, animal shelter, or veterinarians. It is not the intention of this policy to pay for friends or family to provide pet care. Short-term reimbursement of pet care shall not exceed one month or \$500.00 (whichever comes first) per claim. This cap is inclusive of all pets in the household and includes transportation fees (rental fees of trailers to transport larger pets, gas/mileage, boarding fees). The Program will require bill copies/receipts in order to consider payment to the provider or reimbursement to the victim.

If a working farm is the victim's livelihood and the suspect has been ordered to leave the farm, the Victims Compensation Program will consider payment for temporary help that is hired to replace the labor of the suspect to continue the care of animals/crops on the farm. The Victims Compensation Program will reimburse for the cost of hired help not to exceed a maximum of \$300.00 per week, gross, per claim, and for not longer than one month.

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The Victim/Survivor will be responsible for finding the hired help. Hired help can include a family member; however, the family member or hired help must meet all employment regulations.