

## **The “They Are Also Family” National Pet-Care Package**

Using a **\$15.01 Billion** annual stipend for the roughly **336 million** U.S. citizens (which covers approximately **131 million** households), we can design a universal “They Are Also Family” Pet-Care Package.

If we distribute this based on the estimated **86.9 million** households that currently own pets, the stipend provides roughly **\$172 per pet-owning household per year**.

### **Component**

#### **Annual Allocation & Services Provided**

##### **1. The Universal Wellness Voucher \$7.5 Billion**

A \$85 annual credit per household for mandatory core vaccinations (Rabies, Distemper/Parvo) and a basic annual physical exam

##### **.2. National Spay/Neuter Fund \$3.0 Billion**

Fully subsidizes 10 million procedures annually to eliminate shelter overpopulation and reduce stray-related health risks.

##### **3. Quality Ingredient Subsidy \$2.5 Billion**

Direct subsidies to small-batch, high-quality manufacturers to lower the shelf price of “Grade A” human-grade pet foods for low-income families.

##### **4. The “Family” Emergency Net \$1.5 Billion**

A nationwide emergency fund to cover 100% of life-saving surgeries (up to \$2,000) for citizens who cannot afford unexpected ER vet bills.

##### **5. Behavioral & Training Support \$510 Million**

Free digital access to certified behaviorists and localized “Pet Parenting” classes to reduce the #1 reason pets are surrendered: behavior issues.

### **Impact on the Average Citizen**

Under this plan, the “mishandling” issues of the past are mitigated by shifting the power to the consumer. Instead of being locked into the cheapest available options from the “Big Three” companies, citizens have:

- **Zero-cost preventative care:** Removing the financial barrier to keeping a pet healthy.

- **Transparency through competition:** By subsidizing higher-quality independent brands, the major companies would be forced to improve their ingredient quality to compete.
- **Safety Net:** No family would have to choose between their pet's life and their monthly rent.

### **Structural Implementation**

To ensure these billions aren't lost to bureaucracy, the fund would be managed as a **Federal Pet-Care Trust**, modeled after the EBT system. Every citizen with a registered microchip would receive their "Family Bucket" credits via a digital wallet accepted at any licensed vet or pet supply store.