



Veterinary Social Work

Veterinary Social Work (VSW), founded in May of 2002, is a partnership program between the University of Tennessee Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Social Work designed to enhance, support, and inform both professions.

VSW offers support in a variety of ways

These services are free of charge and open to anyone.

For Animal Owners

During illness & treatment:

- Offering support during diagnostic testing and treatment (while at UTCVM)
- Helping communicate questions and concerns with the medical team or with client representatives (while at UTCVM)

When making difficult decisions by helping the family:

- Think and talk through treatment for the animal
- Decide when the right time is to stop treatment
- Communicate animal's illness and possible death with children

During euthanasia & natural death:

- Assisting owners as they think through the possible choice to end the animal's pain and suffering

- Being present with owners during the euthanasia, if they wish (while at UTCVM)
- Being with the animal, if owners cannot be present during the animal's euthanasia (while at UTCVM)

After an animal's death by:

- Providing free individual, family or couple grief support sessions (*8 free sessions to any UT Veterinary Medical Center client and 4 free sessions to any non UTCVM client*) to talk through loss and offer ideas to help as individuals grieve
- Supplying information regarding pet cemeteries and crematories, lists of resources and information on what to expect during this time of grief
- Inviting individuals to attend our Seasonal Pet Memorial Celebrations, where we honor the lives of our beloved animals
- Offering a Pet Loss Support Group

For Members of the Veterinary Team

- Conflict management
- Group debriefings
- 3 free sessions for compassion fatigue support

***Veterinary Social Work
is available
Monday through Friday
10am - 5pm***

Other Fee-Based Support

- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) class
- Grief Recovery Method® Outreach Program

Attending to human needs at the intersection of veterinary and social work practice.





Veterinary Social Work

Veterinary Social Work services are provided at no cost. If you are inspired to contribute to the support Veterinary Social Work offers, your donation will be used in one of the following ways:

- Grief resources
- Supporting the wellbeing of our clients, our community, veterinarians, veterinary staff, and veterinary students
- Supplies for seasonal Pet Memorial Celebrations
- Maintenance and upkeep of the Family Room in the John & Ann Tickle Small Animal Hospital
- Other important Veterinary Social Work needs



How to Donate to Veterinary Social Work

OPTION 1

Send a check, payable to UT Foundation, Inc. (UTFI). Indicate Veterinary Social Work on the memo line. Please mail to UTCVM Advancement:
2407 River Drive - Room A301P, Knoxville, TN 37996-4550

**If you wish to donate in honor or in memory of a beloved animal, please include a note with your check.*

OPTION 2

Visit vetmed.tennessee.edu and click "Give" and "Make a Gift Online." VSW is under *Public Health and Outreach*. You will then be asked to fill in your Credit Card/Debit Card information and confirm your donation. Memorial and honorarium information can be provided in the notes section.

If you have questions regarding a donation, please call **865-974-4379**.

Thank you for your support!