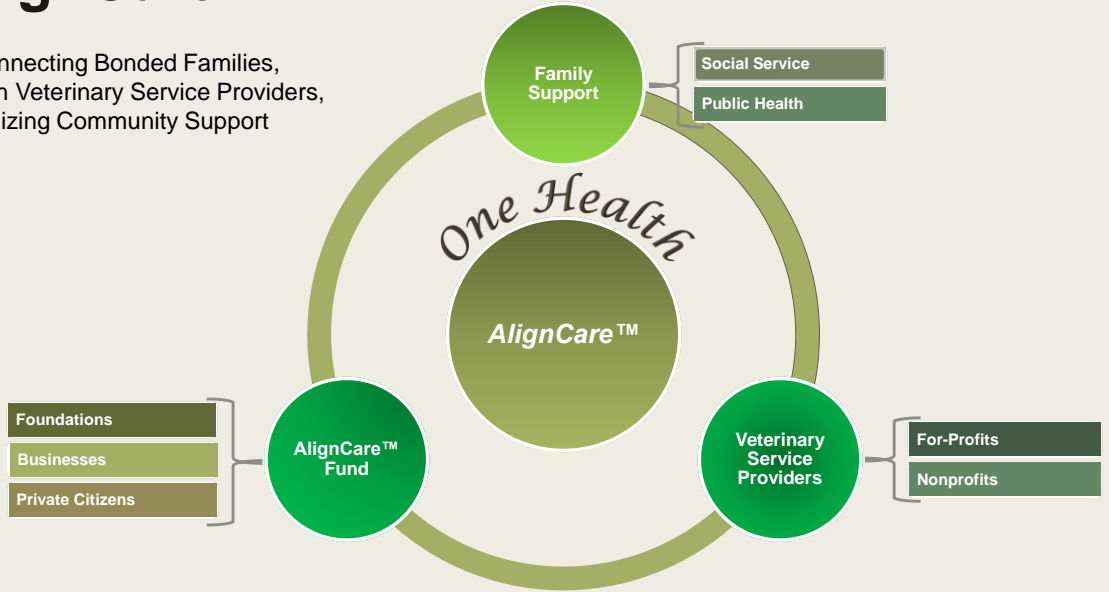


AlignCare™

Connecting Bonded Families,
with Veterinary Service Providers,
Utilizing Community Support



Available at:

[http://avcc.utk.edu/
avcc-report.pdf](http://avcc.utk.edu/avcc-report.pdf)

Report released on
December 17, 2018



“Family” has been Redefined



Bonded Families

88% of pet owners consider their **pets members of the family**.

(AVCC Report, December 17, 2018)

Pets

as

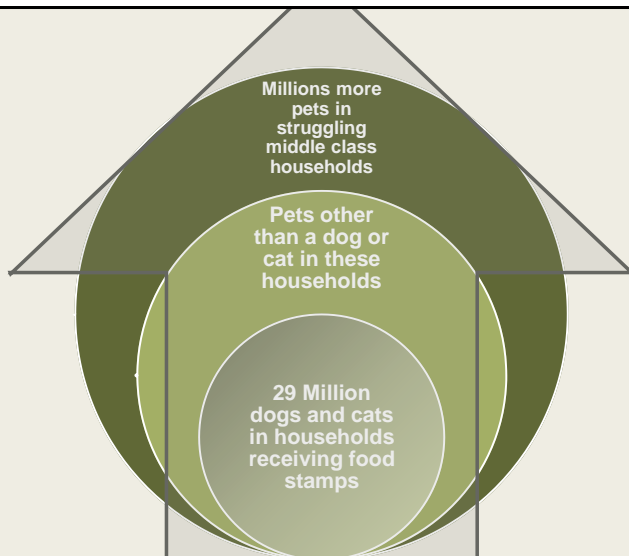
Family

- Animal-human interactions reduce anxiety, depression, and loneliness as they enhance social support and general well-being.
 - *Physiological*
 - *Psychological*
- Emotional impacts particularly important for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, children, and the homeless.



Societal Attitudes Regarding Pets

- More than “personal” property
 - *Society expects pets to be properly cared for.*
- Deserving of legal protections from:
 - *Abuse, cruelty, and neglect*
 - Lack of veterinary care is “un-willful” neglect.
- Evolving animal welfare laws
 - *Custody disputes*
 - *Wills, trusts, and estates*
 - *Prosecutions*



Lack of Access
to Veterinary
Care is a
National Family
Crisis!

Nationally millions of pets live with families who struggle to pay for needed veterinary care.

Lack of Access to Veterinary Care Means:

- Few or no preventative or sick care options available.
- Prolonged illness and recovery, or premature death, including by euthanasia.
- Relinquishment to animal shelter.
 - 30-40% just need temporary help (*Emily Weiss, et al*).
- Distress for the family.
- Increased risk of zoonotic diseases



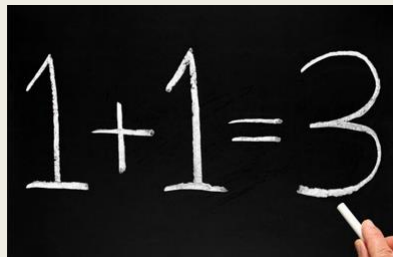
"If you cannot afford veterinary care, then you shouldn't have a pet."

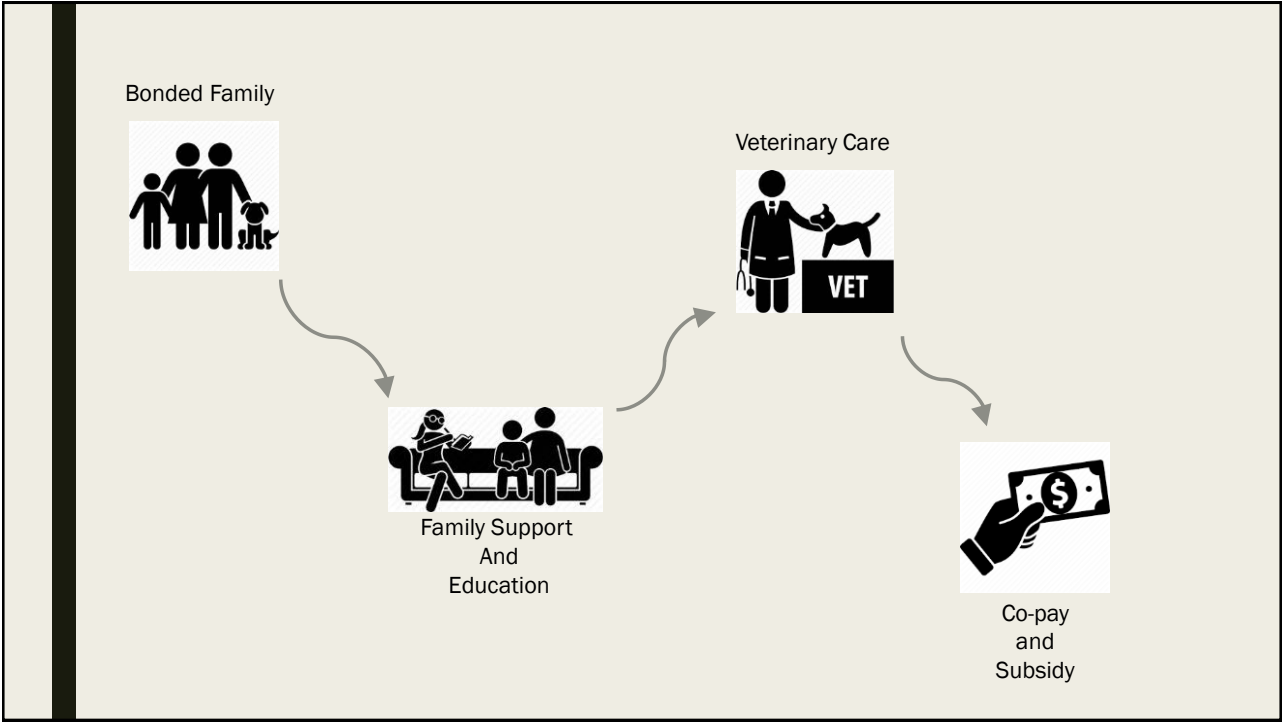
BUT

Pets are already with these families and will not be taken from them!

It's a Paradox!

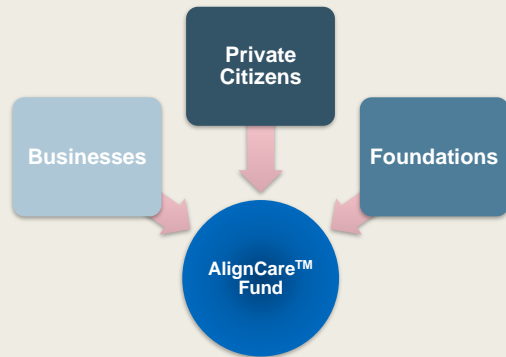
Despite sound reasoning, there is a logically unacceptable conclusion.





AlignCare™ – Funding

Direct a portion of existing resources to keep pets with their family.



One national retailer raises more than \$50 million/year for pets

Why we need AlignCare™

Millions of families with pets struggle to access veterinary care:

- More than one out of four (28%) reported a barrier in the past two years.
- Approximately 29 million dogs and cats live in SNAP households

Lack of veterinary care has negative impacts:

- For the pet
 - Prolonged recovery
 - Premature death
 - Relinquishment
- For the family
 - Threatens mental/emotional health and wellbeing
 - 88% regard their pet a family member
- For the community
 - Zoonotic disease threats

The primary barrier – financial

- Younger pet owners affected the most
- Two-thirds of pets with Millennials and Baby Boomers

Challenges

Biases

- People that cannot afford veterinary care should not have a pet.
 - The Paradox – Denying companionship with pets due to low socioeconomic status is unacceptable to most.
 - ❖ What do we do with them?
 - 80% of SNAP recipients are the working poor.
- People that cannot afford to care for a pet are being irresponsible.
 - Non-purposeful reasons for having a pet
 - ✓ Sickness or death of family member
 - ✓ Stray
- Incremental care is not good medical care.
 - Doing something is better than doing nothing or euthanizing.

Unwillingness to collaborate

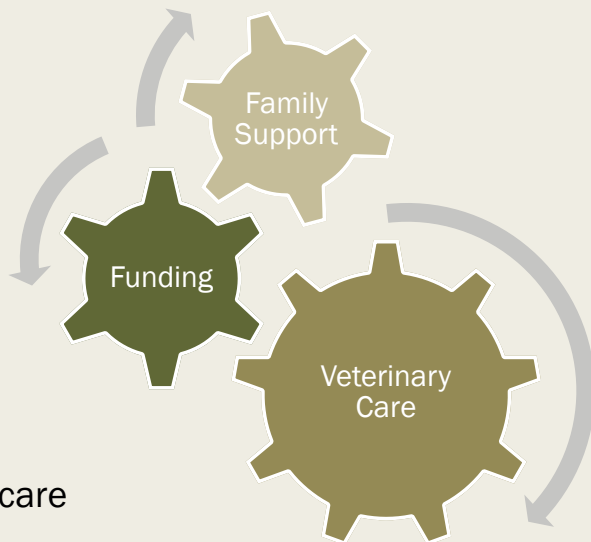
- Tension between for-profit and nonprofit veterinary service providers.
- Self-interest among foundations and animal welfare entities.

Sustainable funding

- Through organized community support

Opportunities

- 01**
Most veterinarians agree that pets are family and deserve access to care.
- 02**
Veterinarians agree to provide alternatives to "gold standard" treatment when finances are limited.
- 03**
Social service agencies want help for bonded families.
- 04**
Many private citizens, businesses, and foundations want to help animals.



AlignCare™
One Health Healthcare

All Pets Can Receive Veterinary Care

