VELVET PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE FOSTER



Velvet Assistance Endowment Fund

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

July 29, 2025 — September 30, 2026

DoveLewis®
Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital



About the Fund

The Velvet Assistance Fund (VAF) was created in 2007 with a generous lead gift from longtime DoveLewis supporter Howard Hedinger to help families struggling with the cost of emergency veterinary care.

In 2022, an estate gift from Malcolm Marquis established the Velvet Assistance Fund Endowment, creating a permanent source of support for this important work. The community quickly rallied around the new fund. As part of DoveLewis' 50th anniversary, a $50,000 matching challenge from Tito's Handmade Vodka inspired more than 100 donors to contribute and successfully meet the match.

The endowment continued to grow through the Whiskers Campaign, with individuals, foundations, and deferred estate commitments helping surpass the $2 million goal.

From Howard's early generosity to the support of today's endowment and estate donors, VAF and the VAF endowment reflect nearly two decades of community investment in a simple but powerful idea: families experiencing financial hardship should have somewhere to turn when their pet needs emergency care.





Dog Saves The Day. (2007, February 20). CBS News. https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/dog-saves-the-day/



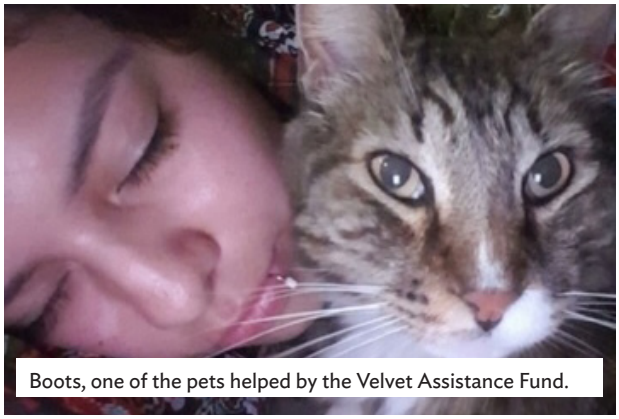
Financial Performance

July 29, 2025 — September 30, 2026

Category	Amount
Principal Value/Corpus	$564,390.20
Additional Gifts and Investment Return	$426,493.80
Beginning Market Value	$990,884
Ending Market Value	$1,232,316
Distributions to Programs	$39,235.85
Investment Return in Dollars	$152,180
Deferred Estate Gifts	$1,533,880



Spike, one of the pets helped by the Velvet Assistance Fund.



Boots, one of the pets helped by the Velvet Assistance Fund.

Canela's Story

Care When Every Moment Matters

When a fishhook lodged deep in Canela's nose, her family faced two fears at once: whether she would be okay and whether they could afford the urgent treatment she needed.



1

The Emergency

Canela arrived at DoveLewis whimpering in pain. The hook needed to be removed quickly, and her family was frightened for her well-being.

2

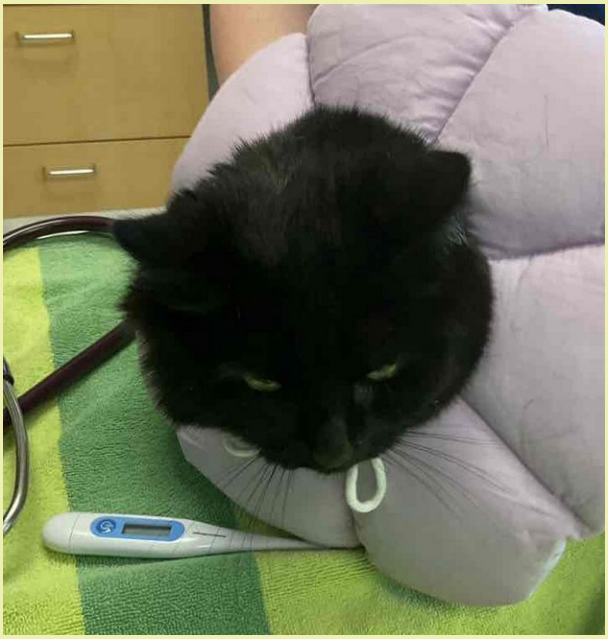
Advanced Support Within Reach

Financial assistance removed the cost barrier. Donor support let the DoveLewis team focus on Canela's care while her family focused on recovery.

3

Home the Same Day

The team removed the hook and eased Canela's pain. She returned home that same day with her tail wagging and her family relieved.



Zurri's Story

Treatment When She Needed It

Zurri's family noticed that something wasn't right when the right side of her face and neck began to swell. For several days, she was uncomfortable, shaking her head, sleeping more than usual, and showing changes in her grooming and behavior. Thanks to support from our Velvet Assistance Fund (VAF), Zurri's family was able to get her the veterinary care she needed. At her visit, she was found to have a painful facial abscess.

Zurri's abscess was expressed and flushed, and she received pain relief before going home with antibiotics and continued pain medication.