



2025 Access to Veterinary Care Research Grant Companion

Accessible, affordable veterinary care is critical to the welfare of animals, and to keeping pets with their families and out of shelters. Basic veterinary care, such as vaccinations or common treatments, is often difficult to access or not affordable. Animals and their caregivers must be able to access affordable veterinary care, without judgement, with the goal of improving animal welfare and supporting pet-owning families and other caregivers. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to improve access to veterinary care (AVC) by leading systemic change to make veterinary care more accessible.

The ASPCA is requesting proposals for our 2025 AVC Research program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge in support of AVC and develops mechanisms for AVC implementation across the veterinary field. We invite organizations that meet the below criteria to apply for an AVC research grant.

The total funding amount available for this opportunity is \$70,000.

Eligible Projects

The scope of this RFP is broad; the research can address AVC for cats, dogs or equines from any angle. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- **Medical** (e.g., what evidence is needed that a currently costly diagnostic/treatment protocol could be made less complex and expensive to offer for caregivers of dogs, cats, or equines? When is a more expensive medication less expensive in the long run because it requires fewer veterinary visits? What conditions more frequently lead to economic euthanasia?)
- **Legal** (e.g., how often do veterinarians receive license complaints or social media complaints for practicing spectrum of care?)
- **Impact** (e.g., how much does a spectrum of care approach increase the number of animals receiving veterinary care?)
- **Program delivery** (e.g., what are the most effective mechanisms for increasing access in rural areas? How big a barrier is lack of internet access for telemedicine? Does means testing work and is it worth it? Does price transparency or advertising flexible rates based on income increase access to care?)
- **Community Engagement** (e.g., What motivates caregivers to seek veterinary care for their animals? How do underserved clients learn about the medical needs of animals in their care? What is the most effective mechanism to market accessible services to those in need? What mechanisms are most effective to address equitability, such as social and cultural barriers to care?)
- **Veterinary Engagement** (e.g., what are the barriers to veterinary professionals increasing access to care? What incentives encourage veterinary professionals to support and engage in access-to-care initiatives? How do veterinary professionals communicate with pet owners to incorporate their specific needs in treatment decisions?)



Ideally, the research will establish tools or guidelines that professionals and organizations can use to improve access to veterinary care.

For project-related inquiries, please contact ASPCAresearch@aspca.org