



## Access to Veterinary Care (AVC) Program: Research Grants 2022 Request for Letters of Intent

### Program Description

Accessible, affordable veterinary care is critical to the welfare of pets and to keeping pets with their families and out of shelters. Pet parents often cannot afford or access basic veterinary care, such as vaccinations or common treatments. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to improve access to veterinary care (AVC) by leading systemic change in the veterinary field to make veterinary care more accessible to more pet parents.

With support from Maddie's Fund®, a national family foundation established by Dave and Cheryl Duffield to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals, the ASPCA is requesting proposals for our AVC Research program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge about mechanisms for AVC implementation across the veterinary field. We invite organizations that meet the below criteria to apply for an AVC research grant.

### Eligible Grant Seekers

Applications from individuals will not be accepted. To be eligible to apply, investigators and/or research teams must be affiliated with a US public or private entity such as a university, college, government agency, veterinary hospital or clinic, or other institution. Applicants will be considered from both non-profit and for-profit entities as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria listed in this document.

Grant seekers must meet ASPCA Grantee Organizational Standards:

- If a past ASPCA grant recipient, must be current on all reporting requirements
- If a nonprofit organization:
  - Must be an incorporated or organized legal entity in good standing with the Secretary of State in the state where the organization is incorporated or organized
  - Must have a board of at least 4 members with a majority of independent members with neither board chair nor treasurer receiving compensation from the organization

For Canadian organizations, you will be asked:

- How this project (including its data, outcomes, manuscripts, and/or other work products) will advance animal welfare specifically within the United States
- Other countries in which your organization has locations
- Other partnerships your organization has with US-based organizations

## Eligible Projects

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

- **Medical** (e.g., what are the most cost and treatment effective approaches for addressing specific types of fractures? What are effective methods for determining whether a foreign body requires surgical intervention or not? Does infection or anesthesia risk increase when conducting soft tissue surgery while a pet is receiving a dental?)
- **Legal** (e.g., how often do veterinarians receive license complaints or social media complaints for practicing spectrum of care?)
- **AVC Impact** (e.g., how much does a spectrum of care approach increase the number of pets 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 people to seek veterinary care for their pet? How do underserved clients learn about the medical needs of their pets? What is the most effective mechanism to market accessible services to those in need? What mechanisms are most effective to address racial and cultural barriers to care?)
- **Veterinary Engagement** (e.g., what are the barriers to veterinarians increasing access to care? What incentives encourage veterinarians to support and engage in access-to-care initiatives?)

Ideally, the research will establish tools or guidelines that other veterinarians and organizations can use to improve access to veterinary care. Projects with the primary aim of providing services or building infrastructure will not be considered. In order to be responsive to this request, projects must have a clear research question with an appropriate methodology to answer that research question.

## Grant Amount

- A minimum of three grants will be awarded with a maximum individual grant amount of \$50,000.

## How to Apply

- 1) Eligible grant seekers should first submit a letter of intent (LOI) by completing an application via the link below. As part of your application, you will be asked to provide the following:
  - o Organization name and basic information, 501(c)(3) status (if applicable); primary investigator and primary contact name and information (title, email and phone)
  - o Project title; anticipated start and end dates
  - o **Budget**: total amount requested, along with a breakdown of income and expenses for the project if it were to receive the requested funding. If the total project cost is higher than the amount requested, explain how the project will be fully funded. (2,000 character limit)
  - o **Project description**: no more than 3,500 characters (roughly 500 words) and include:
    - o Project Justification – how this project will meet criteria and improve access to veterinary care
    - o Research Question(s) – clearly-stated research question(s) with hypotheses to be tested

- Methods – brief description of the planned research methods, including sample and research design
- Impact – description of how the results will be used to inform and advance AVC
- Research team: a list of team members and their credentials, and a brief explanation of why your team is well-poised to carry out this work (3,500 character limit).

**The deadline for LOI submission is: Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 5PM ET.**

**Please complete and submit your application via the following link:**

<https://airtable.com/shraDAHboTgrT3KK3>

**Please note that Airtable will not allow you to save your work and return later to complete your application. We suggest having all the requested information (above) prepared before entering to submit your application.**

- 2)** After review of the LOIs, select grant seekers will be invited to submit a full proposal based on the following criteria:
- Relevance – the proposed research directly informs AVC approaches
  - Potential impact – the potential for the research to substantially improve access to veterinary care
  - Generalizability – the results can be used by many veterinarians/professionals in different settings
  - Clarity – a well thought out and elaborated plan for the work
  - Credentials – the ability of the team to carry out the work

### **ASPCA as a Resource**

An ASPCA Research Director and/or content expert affiliated with the ASPCA may be available to lend expertise to study design considerations as requested by grant recipients. ASPCA personnel will not participate in data collection, analysis, or manuscript writing and the proposed budget and application must provide the personnel and expertise to accomplish these tasks.

Decisions as to whether a full proposal will be invited are expected on or around Thursday, November 10, 2022.

For LOI application inquiries, please contact [AVCResearchGrant@ASPCA.org](mailto:AVCResearchGrant@ASPCA.org).

The ASPCA was founded on the belief that animals are entitled to kind and respectful treatment by humans. Acting effectively on that belief requires a commitment to fostering a collaborative and compassionate culture and to principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We welcome all voices to participate in our advancement of these values in the interest of working together to improve the lives of animals in need.