

# ASPCA 2023 Research Grant Requirements

## Access to Veterinary Care Grant Requirements

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 in the veterinary field to make veterinary care more accessible.

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 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 \$180,000.

### Eligible Projects

The scope of this RFP is broad; the research can address AVC for cats, dogs, or horses 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 horses? When is a more expensive medication actually less expensive in the long run because it requires fewer veterinary visits?)
- **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 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 companion animals? How do underserved clients learn about the medical needs of their companion animals? 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 veterinary professionals increasing access to care? What incentives encourage veterinary professionals to support and engage in AVC initiatives?)

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

For project-related inquiries, please contact [ASPCAresearch@aspca.org](mailto:ASPCAresearch@aspca.org).

## Applied Behavior Grant Requirements

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to advance the development and dissemination of evidence-based behavior interventions and protocols in shelters to prevent the euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats. The ASPCA recognizes that promoting the growth of high-quality research will enhance animal welfare by advancing the assessments and interventions used by key professional audiences. To this end, the ASPCA invites grant applications for our 2023 ASPCA Applied Behavior Research Seed Grant program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge in preventing and responding to behavior problems in shelter populations.

The total funding amount available for this opportunity is \$120,000.

### Eligible Projects

The Applied Behavior Research Seed Grant program solicits research proposals that will inform shelter behavior protocols. Projects may be retrospective, records-based assessments of interventions and outcomes, or prospective studies evaluating the efficacy of behavioral interventions. Of particular interest is research that addresses common behavior concerns in shelter populations that lead to euthanasia. Common concerns include, but are not limited to:

- Excessive arousal
- Reactivity and/or kennel stress
- Behavioral deterioration
- Quality of life concerns

For project-related inquiries, please contact [bst.research@aspca.org](mailto:bst.research@aspca.org).

## Cruelty Research Grant Requirements

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to increase effectiveness in cruelty prevention and response by promoting the growth of high-quality research that will advance anti-cruelty policy and program initiatives, and strengthen animal cruelty awareness, prevention, and response among key audiences. To this end, the ASPCA invites grant applications for our 2023 ASPCA Cruelty Research Grant program.



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

### **Eligible Projects**

The Cruelty Research Grant program solicits research proposals that address animal cruelty from any angle (e.g., public policy, law, criminal justice, criminology, veterinary forensics, public health, economics, community engagement, behavioral science). Research that analyzes the effectiveness of legislative and other policy measures designed to prevent and/or respond to cruelty is especially encouraged. Also of interest is research that heightens awareness of animal cruelty and builds knowledge that informs and engages key community stakeholders and allied professionals in preventing and responding to this animal welfare issue. Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Animal welfare organizations
- Legislators
- Government agencies
- Veterinary professionals
- Applied animal behaviorists
- Other animal care professionals
- Law enforcement and prosecutors
- Social service professionals
- The public, including animal owners

For project-related inquiries, please contact [ASPCAresearch@aspca.org](mailto:ASPCAresearch@aspca.org).

## **Psychological Trauma Grant Requirements**

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to increase effectiveness in cruelty prevention and response in the absence of physical indicators that may be a result of injury, disease, or other causes. To this end, the ASPCA invites grant applications for our 2023 ASPCA Psychological Trauma Research program. This program seeks to support rigorous research aimed at developing or validating behavioral and biological markers of mental suffering due to cruelty and neglect. The ASPCA recognizes that promoting the growth of high-quality research will promote animal welfare by advancing the development and application of indicators used by key professional audiences.

The total funding amount available for this opportunity is \$20,000.

### **Eligible Projects**

The Psychological Trauma Research Grant program solicits research proposals that will inform the documentation of animal cruelty and neglect in the absence of physical trauma. Of particular interest is research that focuses on objective metrics. Such metrics include, but are not limited to:

- Biomarkers



- Quantifiable behavioral markers
- Composite markers

For project-related inquiries, please contact [bst.research@aspca.org](mailto:bst.research@aspca.org).

## Requirements for All Research Grants

For application submission inquiries/technical difficulties, please contact [grants@aspca.org](mailto:grants@aspca.org).

All eligible, interested organizations are invited to [submit an application](#) for consideration with the following information:

- Basic Organization Details:
  - Federal Tax ID/Employer Identification Number (EIN)
  - Organization Contact and Primary Investigator information
- For nonprofit organizations, you will be asked:
  - If your IRS exemption is current
  - If you're in good standing with the Secretary of State in the state where you are incorporated
    - This means that you meet all state-imposed requirements, which may include: filing reports/forms, paying required fees, appointing a registered agent, etc.
    - If you aren't sure, go to your state's Secretary of State's website (or do an online search for: your State, "secretary of state," "business search") and look up your organization
  - If your board includes at least 4 Board members
  - If the majority of your board is independent
    - This means that fewer than half of your Board members can be paid employees and/or family members or close relatives
  - If your board chair and treasurer are not compensated by the organization
  - If your charitable registration is current/active in the state of the Grantee's primary location (for grants  $\geq$ \$25,000)
- For Canadian organizations, you will be asked to list:
  - Any partnerships you have with US-based organizations
  - Other countries in which your organization has locations
- Amount of grant funding requested (The maximum individual grant amounts for each research area are \$20,000 (Psychological Trauma Research), \$40,000 (Applied Behavior Research), and \$50,000 (Access to Veterinary Care Research and Cruelty Research).)
- *You will be asked to provide the following as attachments* (page numbers = single-spaced; please use 11- or 12-point font):
  - Brief description of the project leadership team/ key personnel (1 page): provide a list of team members and their credentials, and a brief explanation of why your team is well-positioned to carry out this work.
  - Biosketch, CV, or resume for all key research personnel (no page limit).
  - Project Title

- o Project description and justification (1500 to 2500 words). Please include:
  - *Project title*
  - *Background/Significance*: explicitly address how the project meets the criteria of the grant program.
  - *Research question(s)*: clearly-stated research question(s) or aims, including hypotheses and predictions to be tested.
  - *Methods*: description of the planned research methods, including the sample, sample size justification, research design, and planned statistical analyses.
  - *Impact*: description of how the results will be used to inform and advance animal welfare in the United States, along with a plan for disseminating the findings and measuring the impact of the research. Please include specific conferences and scientific journals you will target in your dissemination efforts. Consider dissemination beyond academic audiences. How will the findings get into the hands of those who can use them to improve animals' lives?
- o Project timeline (1 page): include anticipated start and end dates, major project milestones (e.g., data collection, analysis), and timeline for dissemination of project findings. Proposed project duration should typically be approximately 12 months, but shorter and longer timelines will be considered. The maximum duration is 24 months.
- o Budget (1 page): 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.
  - Note: Proposals that primarily support faculty salaries are discouraged
- How you learned about this grant opportunity