



2026 ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative (NTSI) Quality of Life Grant Companion Document

The Northern Tier Shelter Initiative (NTSI) is accepting applications from brick-and-mortar animal shelters in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to improve the quality of life for animals in their care by installing new cat or dog housing units (or upgrading existing ones) to meet relevant key statements from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters (ASV Guidelines).

Grant funds can be used to address one or more animal housing Key Statements from the ASV Guidelines. Please review this document to ensure your request is aligned with one or more of the Key Statements.

All eligible, interested organizations are invited to submit a funding application for consideration with the following information:

Basic Organization Details

Organization Name:

Federal Tax ID/Employer Identification (EIN):

Organization Type:

- Animal shelter with a government contract (*defined as a private/nonprofit agency with a physical facility that has a government contract for animal control and/or housing services*)
- Animal shelter without a government contract (*defined as a private/nonprofit agency with a physical facility but no government contract*)
- Government animal shelter (*defined as an entity operated by a city or county providing animal control and housing services*)
- Tribal Authority

Organization mailing address (Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Organization website

Organization Primary Contact Name, Title, Email address:

Organization Signatory Name, Title, Email address:

(person authorized to sign a grant agreement)

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 either your Board Chair or Treasurer receive compensation from the organization for their services as an officer, employee, or independent contractor for the organization
- Required documents:
 - for non-profits: current fiscal year budget, most current 990/990EZ/990N, current board of directors list (applicants selected to move forward in the review process may be required to also provide bios for the Executive Director, Board Chair and Treasurer)
 - for government animal services: signed Form W9

ASV Guideline Alignment

The questions below will help our team align your proposal with the animal housing Key Statements from the ASV Guidelines and how they will impact your shelter population's quality of life.

Please share which species within your shelter will be impacted by this proposal – only one species can be chosen for this proposal.

- Dogs
- Cats

Please share the specific area of your shelter or animal population that will be impacted by this proposal.

i.e., entire cat or dog shelter population, strays, isolation, new intakes, adoptables, feline long-term housing, community cat room, puppies, kittens, etc.

Animal Housing ASV Key Statements addressed by this RFP

Response Options:

- Always
 Sometimes
 Never
 Not Applicable

Feline housing:

1. Cats **can** move normally in their enclosure. They can stand up, turn around, take a few steps, sit, stretch out fully and raise their tail.
2. The housing for cats who are in shelter long-term (i.e., more than two weeks) have additional space, enrichment, and choice **provided** within their enclosure.
3. Cats are housed in enclosures that **do not meet** the 8 ft² (0.75 m²) minimum requirement for humane housing unit size.
4. Housing units for cats **have** separate areas for eating, sleeping, and eliminating. Their enclosure layout prevents food, bedding, and waste from being in the same space.
5. Housing units for cats have litter boxes large enough to **comfortably accommodate** their entire body and allow for proper posturing.
6. Primary enclosures for cats **allow** scratching.
7. Primary enclosures for cats **allow** climbing.
8. Primary enclosures for cats **allow** perching.
9. Housing units for cats **allow** them the opportunity to hide within their enclosure.
10. Appropriate resources (e.g., food, water, bedding, litter boxes, toys) **are provided** to minimize competition or resource guarding and ensure access by all co-housed cats or dogs.
11. Cats who are co-housed **are provided with** a variety of elevated resting perches to increase complexity and choice within the living space.
12. Cats who are co-housed **are provided with** a variety of hiding places to increase complexity and choice within the living space.
13. Housing units for cats **are structurally sound** to prevent injury and escape.
14. Housing units for cats are maintained in **safe**, working condition to prevent injury and escape.
15. Housing units for cats **are able** to be fully sanitized and withstand repeated cleanings.
16. Enclosures for cats are stacked or arranged in a way that **compromises** ventilation.
17. Enclosures for cats are stacked or arranged in a way that **allows for waste** material and contamination between housing units.
18. The cats **are kept** in enclosures that require use of forceful handling equipment for daily cleaning and care.
19. Enclosures for cats are stacked or arranged in a way that **increases stress or discomfort**.
20. Cages or travel crates that are designed for short-term temporary confinement **are used** as the primary daily housing units for cats.
21. Housing units for cats **have** wire-mesh bottoms or slated floors.
22. Drain covers are designed **to prevent** injury or escape.

Canine housing:

1. Dogs **can** move normally in their enclosure. They can stand up, turn around, take a few steps, sit, stretch out fully and raise their tail.
2. The housing for dogs who are in the shelter long-term (i.e., more than two weeks) have additional space, enrichment, and choice **provided** within their enclosure.
3. Housing units for dogs **have** separate areas for eating, sleeping, and eliminating. Their enclosure layout prevents food, bedding, and waste from being in the same space.
4. Appropriate resources (e.g., food, water, bedding, litter boxes, toys) **are provided** to minimize

- competition or resource guarding and ensure access by all co-housed dogs.
5. Housing units for dogs **are structurally sound** to prevent injury and escape.
 6. Housing units for dogs are maintained in **safe**, working condition to prevent injury and escape.
 7. Housing units for dogs **are able** to be fully sanitized and withstand repeated cleanings.
 8. Enclosures for dogs are stacked or arranged in a way that **compromises** ventilation.
 9. Enclosures for dogs are stacked or arranged in a way that **allows for waste** material and contamination between housing units.
 10. The dogs **are kept** in enclosures that require use of forceful handling equipment for daily cleaning and care.
 11. Enclosures for dogs are stacked or arranged in a way that **increases stress or discomfort**.
 12. Cages or travel crates that are designed for short-term temporary confinement **are used** as the primary daily housing units for dogs.
 13. Housing units for dogs **have** wire-mesh bottoms or slated floors.
 14. Drain covers are designed **to prevent** injury or escape.

Proposal

Grant Amount Requested (up to \$25,000):

Anticipated Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Anticipated End Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Referring to the ASV Guidelines Key Statements above, tell us in detail how you hope to improve the quality of life for the targeted cat or dog population or area of the shelter:

Provide a detailed description outlining your proposal goal(s). Please refer to the ASV Guidelines and/or the Animal Housing Key Statements above to ensure we understand how your proposal aligns with one or more of the Key Statements.

Please upload your program budget:

[File upload option]

Legal Acknowledgment

By submitting an application for an ASPCA grant, you agree to allow the ASPCA to utilize the information submitted on such application in any way it deems appropriate to support its mission to prevent cruelty to animals, including fundraising. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, reproducing such information in print or on the ASPCA website and/ or allowing third parties to access such information. In addition, by submitting this application, you hereby certify that the requesting organization is aware of and endorses this request and the information herein and you are authorized to submit this application on behalf of the requesting organization.

For any questions regarding the application process, please contact:

NTSI.ASPCA@aspca.org

To aid your process:

1. **Office Hours:** NTSI is offering two free “Office Hours” sessions on May 12, 2026, and May 20, 2026, to answer frequently asked questions about the ASV housing guidelines and the grant application process.
2. **Worksheet:** We encourage applicants to utilize this [QoL ASV Worksheet](#) developed by NTSI to help your agency determine which animal housing area(s) are in most need of improvement and to strengthen compliance with [the ASV Guidelines](#).
3. **Be transparent:** We know it can feel difficult to disclose that some housing units for animals in your shelter do not meet the ASV guidelines. This RFP can help agencies struggling with this kind of housing challenge, so please be transparent about the housing issues you are hoping to improve.
4. **Be open:** To best support your efforts, ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative (NTSI) may reach out to discuss your proposal, ask for photos, more details or may request to visit your facility in person. In-person consultations are free for northern tier agencies.
5. **Resources:** Still unsure about how to implement ASV guidelines? Check out these resources:
 - a. NTSI Zoomie webinars: [Putting the ASV guidelines into practice](#) –& [The Updated ASV Guidelines: Practical Guidance for Animal Welfare Organizations](#)
 - b. The [ASV](#) website has interactive checklists and [videos](#)
 - c. Visit ASPCAPro’s [Essential Resources](#) for more inspiration