



2026

NYS Companion Animal Care Standards Act – Implementation Grant

July 2026



Support Team



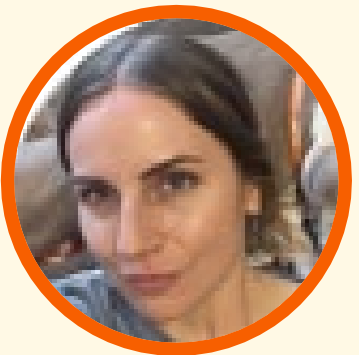
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Today's Discussion

- **NYS Companion Animal Care Standards Act & related resources**
- **Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) Guidelines Documents**
- **Grant guidelines**
- **Examples - What can be funded**
- **Creating a strong proposal**
- **Q & A**
- **Next steps**



NYS Companion Animal Care Standards Act



Law passed in 12/2022 and came in effect in 12/2025

GOAL

Elevate standards of care for homeless animals, ensure animals live in safe and humane conditions.

Gives NYS Agriculture & Markets ability to inspect animal shelters and rescue organizations to ensure compliance with law and grant license to operate.

Sections of NYS Law

Personnel
Training

Recordkeeping
& Protocols

General
Facility
Standards

Animal
Housing

Sanitation

Shelter
Management
Protocols

Animal
Husbandry

Veterinary
Care

Behavior

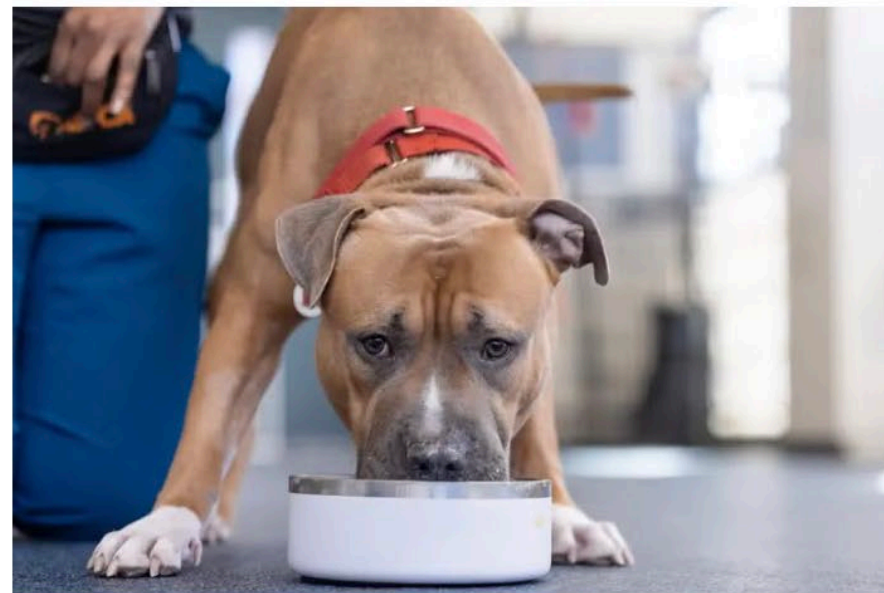
Transportation

Foster Care
Provider
Requirements

Resources Available on ASPCApro to Help Organizations

New York State Companion Animal Care Standards Act: Resources & Checklist

In 2022, New York State passed the [Companion Animal Care Standards Act](#). The law will be effective on December 15, 2025. The resources provided here can help organizations as they evaluate and enhance their operations. Also, the [ASPCA Shelter Medicine Services team](#) is here to support you so feel free to reach out with your questions.



Resources Available on ASPCApro to Help Organizations

New York State Companion Animal Care Standards Act Training

The [New York State \(NYS\) Companion Animal Care Standards Act](#) elevates the care for cats and dogs in sheltering organizations across NYS.

ASPCA Learn's NYS Companion Animal Care Standards Act training course provides information on the training topics specified in the "Personnel Training Requirements" section of the law (Section 422). In just three to four hours, staff and volunteers with direct animal care responsibilities can complete the entire training series. Although each course in this comprehensive training can be taken individually, staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the full training series to support compliance.



Resources Available on ASPCApro to Help Organizations

Law Checklist

Category	Requirement	Yes	No
Animal Housing			
	Animals are not tethered without supervision for periods exceeding 30 minutes.		
	Animal housing units use materials that are non-porous, water resistant, non-toxic, and able to withstand regular cleaning and disinfection.		
	Animal housing units have drainage that prevents accumulation of water or other liquids on floor.		
	Animal housing units are structurally sound, in good repair and maintained in safe, working condition to confine animals, prevent injury, keep animals safe from predation, keep other animals out, and allow animals to be dry and clean.		
	Shelter prohibits use of wire or slat-bottom cages unless a solid tray is provided for cage bottom to prevent injury to animal.		
	Dogs and cats are housed in separate rooms with effort to minimize exposure of cats to barking of dogs.		

Resources Available on ASPCApro to Help Organizations

Resource Guide

Recordkeeping & Protocols

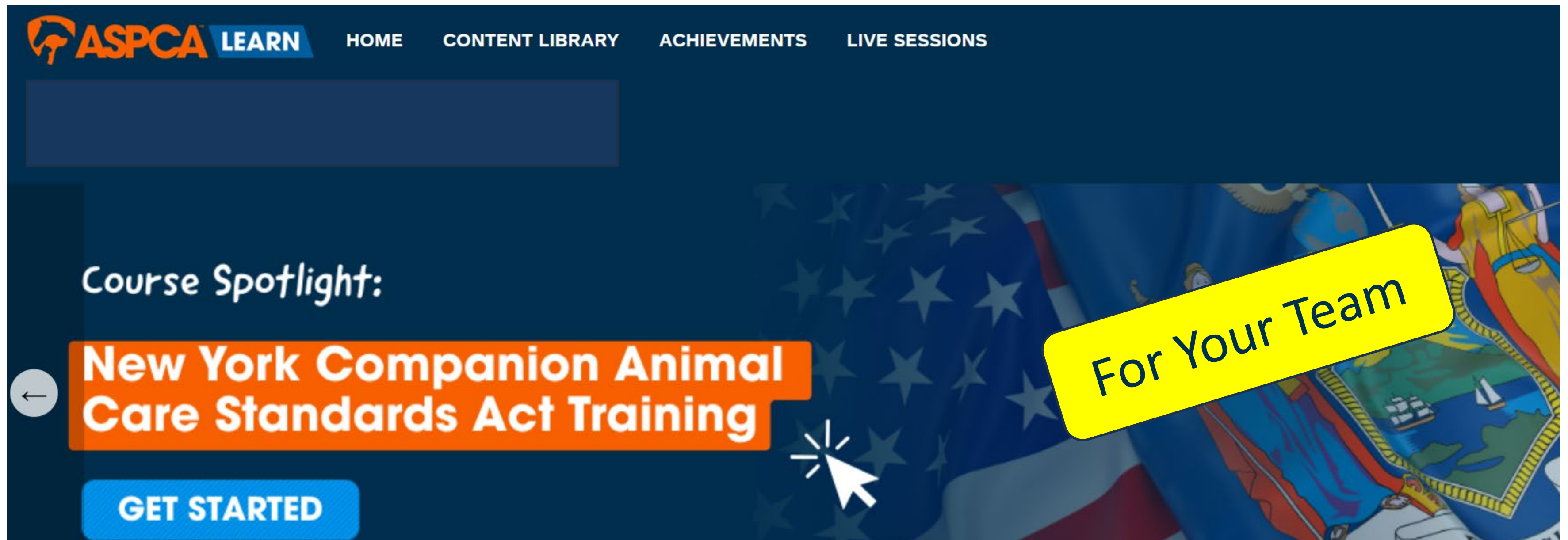
- [Scanning for a Microchip](#)
- [American Animal Hospital Association \(AAHA\): Microchip Registry Lookup](#)
- [Shelter Animals Count: Intake and Outcome Database Form](#)
- [Human Animal Support Services \(HASS\): Standardized List of Intake Reasons for Owner Surrender](#)
- [Creating SOPs](#)
- [Implementing SOPs](#)
- [Updating SOPs](#)

General Facility Standards

- [Animal Housing for Isolation and Quarantine](#)
- [Animal Shelter Facility Use and Design](#)
- [Facility Design and Animal Housing](#)

Resources Available on ASPCApro to Help Organizations

Personnel Training



The screenshot shows the ASPCA Learn website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ASPCA logo, the word "LEARN", and links for "HOME", "CONTENT LIBRARY", "ACHIEVEMENTS", and "LIVE SESSIONS". Below the navigation bar is a large dark blue banner. On the left side of the banner, the text "Course Spotlight:" is displayed above a large orange button that reads "New York Companion Animal Care Standards Act Training". Below this button is a blue button that reads "GET STARTED". On the right side of the banner, there is a yellow speech bubble that says "For Your Team". The background of the banner features a stylized American flag and a map of New York State.

ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters



- **2nd edition published in 2022**
- **Framework of the 5 Domains**
- **Go-to guide for humane care in shelters, rescues, sanctuaries, and foster homes**

Key Differences Between NYS Law & ASV Guidelines (2022)

Item	NYS Shelter Law	ASV Guidelines (2022)
Kennels	• Space for animal to make normal postural movements, fully stretch body, lie down, stand upright without touching sides. • Allowed to sit, sleep, eat away from area where defecate/ urinate.	• Cages/crates meant for short-term use are unacceptable. • Cats housing less than 8 square feet floor space is unacceptable. 11 square feet (or more) of floor space is ideal. • Multi-compartment housing should be provided for majority of animals housed in shelter.

Example: Cat Portals



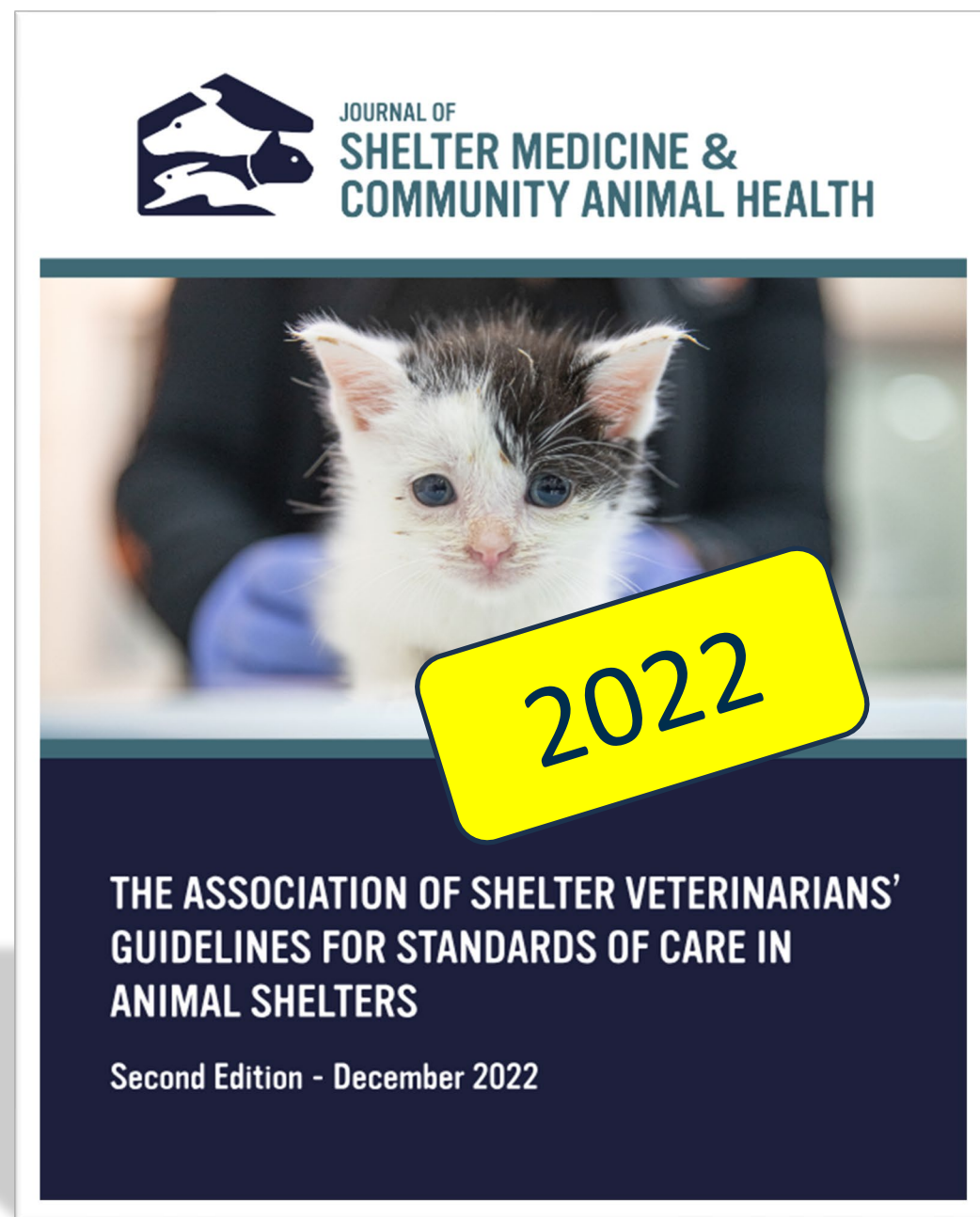
- **Creates double-compartment for cat kennels without ordering new kennels.**
- **Decreases animal stress and spread of infectious disease.**
- **Increases safety for staff during sanitation.**

Key Differences Between NYS Law & ASV Guidelines (2022)

Item	NYS Shelter Law	ASV Guidelines (2022)
Group Housing	- Regardless of size of enclosure, number of animals cohoused in enclosure at one time is not exceed: - 12 adult cats - 2 litters of kittens or 10 kittens total - 5 adult dogs - 1 litter of puppies	- A minimum of 18 square feet floor space per adult cat should be provided for cohousing. - Regardless of size of enclosure, no more than 6 adult cats should be present. - When cohousing is indicated, pairs are preferred for dogs to maximize safety and biosecurity. - Due to increased susceptibility to infectious disease, puppies and kittens under 20 weeks must not be cohoused with unfamiliar animals except when benefits outweigh risks.

Recommendation...

When determining what your organization would like to request funding for, review relevant recommendations in ASV Guidelines to create maximum benefits and impact for animals in care.



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Special Report

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians' 2016 Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs



Reach out to ASPCA Shelter Medicine Services if would like to discuss ...



Shelter Medicine Consults and Support for Animal Shelters

Are you looking for guidance on a shelter medicine topic?

The ASPCA® Shelter Medicine Services team is here to help! Whether you have a quick question you're looking to have answered or a situation you'd like to discuss in more detail, please reach out to us to see how we can support you. We know you have a lot on your plates, and we're here to assist you in any way we can.

For Example:

- **Animal housing units organization would like to order with grant funds**
- **Facility renovations**

Funding Examples

- New animal enclosures or install portals/transfer doors in existing kennels
- Software or hardware for cloud-based medical recordkeeping systems
- Appropriate sanitation products and equipment
- Autoclaves, surgical instruments other supplies to meet spay/neuter requirements
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Sinks, sound buffers, exam tables, storage cabinets



Funding Examples

- Hiring or contracting veterinarian to provide oversight and approval of protocols related to health care of animals in shelter
 - See [Shelters United Vet of Record toolkit](#)
- Hiring or contracting animal behavior professional to develop programming and protocols related to behavioral care and enrichment for animals in shelter
- Training for staff to become Certified Euthanasia Technicians
 - See [UF EBI virtual and supported supervision course](#)



Grant Guidelines

- Request for proposals will close on Friday, 7/31/2026 at 5 pm ET
- Grants will range from \$20,000 - \$75,000
- Total funding available is up to \$600,000



Grant Guidelines

- Be an "animal shelter" as defined by Article 26-C, Section 420, Subdivision 6
- Nonprofit or municipal animal agency in NYS that is licensed or in the process of becoming licensed by NYS Agriculture & Markets.
- Priority may be given to organizations who did not receive a 2025 ASPCA NYS Shelter Standards Implementation Grant.
- Use the Checklist, Companion Document and Budget Template
- Include requested financial documents and License info in your application. Reach out to the Grants Team with questions.



How to Strengthen Grant Proposal

Identify

Law directive that
your request is
addressing

Outline

Proposed upgrade,
program or project

Quantify

Expected impact

Explain

Expected barriers
and how org will
overcome

Share

How work might
continue beyond
grant term

Describe

How funds will
be used

Next Steps

- Use the Companion Guide and Checklist
 - review the questions so you are prepared to complete the grant application in one session
 - no saving and going back
- Prepare project statement
 - what, why, who and how
 - get quotes for new kennels, equipment, renovations
- Prepare the budget
 - use the provided template
- Keep request in alignment with what can be funded



Q&A

More Questions? Email us:

- grants@aspca.org (Questions about application or technical difficulties)
- sheltermedicine@aspca.org (Questions about proposal items)

