



## **Dogs Trust USA Grants – Frequently asked questions**

### **Who can apply for a grant?**

Dogs Trust USA provides grants to 501c3 not for profit organizations based in the United States who wish to improve dog welfare within the country. The organization will need to show evidence of its 501c3 status and evidence that they have an organisational bank account. We are not able to provide grants to individuals or for-profit organizations.

### **Where does my project need to be to be eligible?**

We will accept applications to support dog welfare projects anywhere within the United States

### **How much can I apply for?**

The maximum grant that can be awarded to organizations which we have not previously funded through our grants programme is \$50,000.

### **What type of projects do you fund?**

Applications should fit within one of our strategic priority areas. These could include projects on dog population management (spay/neuter), improving successful rehoming, or constructing a veterinary clinic. They may be education projects working with children or other groups, to improve safety around dogs or responsible dog ownership. They may also be projects that provide subsidized or low-cost vet treatment to disadvantaged communities.

### **What will you not fund?**

We will not fund capital build items such as the construction of dog kennels, veterinary clinics or rehoming shelters if the land is not owned, and we will not fund the purchase of land.

We do not provide funding for dog relocation or transportation programs.

Dogs Trust USA will not support organizations which euthanize healthy dogs. Health is defined by the WHO (OIE) as a 'state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and

not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. The basis of welfare in all animals has been based broadly around the five freedoms. We prioritise dog welfare and quality of life above all.

### **How do I apply?**

Application forms are available to download on our website. Only applications typed and submitted on our forms by email will be accepted. Please fill in the Part 1 form plus choose the relevant Part 2 form for the type of project for which you are applying. Note that if your project covers more than one area of work you may have to fill in more than 1 of the Part 2 project forms.

Completed forms should be emailed to: [grants@dogstrustusa.org](mailto:grants@dogstrustusa.org)

We aim to provide an email acknowledging receipt of your application within 3 working days. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please email us and ask.

We will usually have further questions to ask of applicants following receipt of their application as part of our due diligence process; these will be more detailed and aim to clarify areas of the project such as veterinary standards, educational materials, euthanasia and adoption policies that are relevant to the project, as well as further information on organizational finances.

### **When can I apply and when will I hear?**

We have 1 round of grant funding a year, with the window for when applications can be submitted opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and closing on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

We aim to let all applicants know the outcome of their application by the 31<sup>st</sup> August. Please bear this in mind when submitting your application and devising your project timeline. We may wish to suggest adaptations or improvements to projects before providing the grant. In some cases we will want to visit you before giving a final decision.

We will give feedback and advice to unsuccessful applicants in good faith, but the decision of our Grants Committee is final, and we will not get into detailed discussions about the decision.

### **What happens next if my application is successful?**

If an application is accepted, we will draft terms and conditions or a Grant Agreement (depending on the size of the grant) to be signed by both parties. Money can be made available within one month of the application being approved, assuming the terms and conditions are agreed.

Regular reports will be required along specific criteria relevant to the application, and a plan for these will be provided as part of the terms and conditions.

### **How likely am I to be successful with my application?**

We receive a large amount of requests for financial support and are sadly unable to provide grants to everyone who applies, even if the project is a good one!

## **How can I maximise the chance of my application being successful?**

We will favour projects that can demonstrate some or all of the following criteria:

- **Impact potential:** The potential to have a significant and lasting positive impact on dog welfare.
- **Monitoring:** An understanding of the scale of the problem and a plan on how to measure progress/success.
- **Sustainability:** The presence of a long-term funding plan.
- **Local community engagement:** Strong support from the local community and key influencers.
- **Governance:** A well governed organization making the application.
- **Value for Money**
- **Incubator Projects:** Projects which have found new and creative ways to help dogs that other dog welfare organizations can learn from.