



The Pets at Home Foundation

Grant Funding Criteria for 2021-22

Rescue and Rehoming Organisations

The Pets at Home Foundation provides funding to organisations whose **main activity** is:

1. the rescue and rehoming of UK domestic pets

and/or

2. the provision of temporary or ongoing assistance to ensure pets can remain with their owners, where rehoming takes place only when it is not possible to reunite the pet with their owner

and/or

3. changing the lives of adults and children through the provision of animal-based activities and practical assistance

If your organisation's main activity is for points 2 and/or 3, please refer to our 'New Grant Criteria Pet People Bond' document.

Rescue and Rehoming

The Pets at Home Foundation provides funding to pet rescues for purposes which:

- make a real difference to the welfare of UK domestic pets in rescue
- aim to reduce the number of domestic pets in rescue

All funding requests must be for purposes which have a direct impact on the welfare of domestic pets¹ in rescue.

1. Is my rescue eligible?

- 1.1. The organisation's main charitable activity must be the rescue and rehoming of domestic pets.
- 1.2. The organisation must have been operating for a minimum of 2 years and can provide rehoming figures and financial information for a 12 month period.
- 1.3. Organisations can be:
 - national pet rescue charities and their branches

¹ These are: cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, degus, mice, chinchillas, rats, parrots and pet birds, commonly kept reptiles, ferrets, chickens, equines.

- independent pet rescue and rehoming centres either centre or foster based
- 1.4. The organisation must be based in the UK, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, and the significant majority of each pet species the organisation rescues must be from within these geographical areas.²
 - 1.5. Organisations based within England, Wales or Scotland and have an annual income of over £15,000 must be a Registered Charity, either with the Charity Commission or the OSCR in Scotland (or Companies House for CICs).
 - 1.6. Organisations based within England, Wales or Scotland whose annual income is less than £15,000 do not need to be a Registered Charity.
 - 1.7. All organisations based in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, regardless of income, must be registered as a charity with the relevant local body.
 - 1.8. All organisations will, where applicable, vaccinate, microchip and treat all pets for fleas and worms prior to rehoming. If it is not possible to neuter an animal prior to adoption, the rescue should have a contract in place with the new owner that states they are committed to neutering their pet at a later date, if not paid for by the rescue (checks may be made with the rescue's vet).
 - 1.9. Applications can only be made by an individual known to the rescue and authorised to make grant applications on the rescue's behalf.

2. Is my application eligible for funding?

- 2.1. The charitable purpose of the application must have a direct impact on the welfare of domestic pets.
- 2.2. We will **only** consider applications for the following:
 - vet bills to a maximum of 25% of that cost centre (annual)
 - boarding costs to a maximum of 25% of that cost centre (annual)
 - trap and neuter schemes for feral or stray cats
 - food to a maximum of 25% of that cost centre (annual)
 - funding towards capital projects, including vehicles, equipment and building work
- 2.3. We will only consider applications for funding towards building renovations or new building work if:
 - the property is owned by the rescue, in the rescue's name
 - if planning permission is required for building renovations or new building work, this must have been granted before an application is made, and a copy must be supplied by the rescue with the grant application form
- 2.4. Exceptions to 2.3 may be considered if the 'building' is a mobile structure (e.g. field shelter).

² Exceptions are made for rescues which rehome pets which were brought into the UK for another purpose (working/racing dogs) and which have now found themselves needing a new home.

- 2.5. If applying for fencing, outside exercise areas or similar the land must either be:
- owned by the rescue, in the rescue's name *or*
 - rented by the rescue, and there are at least 5 years left to run on the charity's lease
- 2.6. We will not fund:
- salaries, uniforms or expenses
 - the cost of leasing a vehicle, road tax, insurance or petrol costs
 - the purchase of land or buildings
 - any costs associated with a charity shop
 - fundraising costs such as marketing materials
- 2.7. The Pets at Home Foundation will not retrospectively award funds towards a project that has already been started or completed.
- 2.8. **12 months** must have lapsed since the rescue last received a grant from the Pets at Home Foundation ('Support Adoption For Pets') before a rescue can apply again, unless the last grant was awarded under the Covid-19 emergency grant scheme.

3. What financial information must I provide?

- 3.1. All organisations must have a bank account set up in the organisation's name.
- 3.2. All organisations must provide a set of their last filed accounts, prepared in accordance with the relevant Charity Commission guidance.
- 3.3. If the organisation's last filed accounts relate to a financial year ending more than 12 months ago, you should also provide draft figures for the following financial year. The Pets at Home Foundation can provide a template for these figures if required.
- 3.4. Organisations applying for more than £25,000 may be asked to provide additional financial information, including financial figures from last year end to a date within two months of application submission, and a current balance sheet.
- 3.5. It is unlikely that an organisation will receive funding where the Pets at Home Foundation Trustees have concerns about the long-term financial stability of an organisation. Any rescue which is in regular debt or regularly ends the financial year with a deficit should contact the Pets at Home Foundation before applying.

4. What other evidence must I provide?

- 4.1. All organisations must provide contact information for two individuals willing to act as independent referees. One of these must be your main vet. The other must not be a Trustee, family member, employee of your organisation, or work for Pets at Home (except where Vets4Pets/Companion Care are your main vet). You may wish to use a volunteer, supporter, or past adopter.
- 4.2. All applications requesting funding for veterinary bills must include a sample of veterinary statements or invoices dated within the last 3 months, which demonstrate a selection of treatments and their costs.

- 4.3. All applications requesting funding for boarding costs must include a sample of boarding statements or invoices dated within the last 3 months.
- 4.4. All applications requesting funding towards the purchase of vehicles and/or equipment must include two quotes from suppliers which demonstrate the cost of the item(s).
- 4.5. All applications requesting funding towards building work or refurbishment must include:
 - at least two quotes from different suppliers for the bulk of the costs of the project
 - confirmation that the land is either owned in the rescue's name, or a copy of the lease agreement
 - if planning permission is required, then include a copy of the planning permission agreement (or link to the appropriate local authority website)
- 4.6. For any application requesting funding towards building work or refurbishment, we also *recommend* including:
 - architecture plans and drawings
 - photographs of the existing facility
 - business/strategic plans relating to the project
- 4.7. The Pets at Home Foundation may ask to visit your organisation, either in person or virtually via a video call. Any organisation which is unable to accommodate a visit is not eligible for funding.
- 4.8. Failure to include all of the required evidence will result in an application being automatically declined.

All of the criteria listed on this document are subject to trustee discretion. Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you have any queries regarding whether your organisation or application falls within our current funding criteria.