

ASPCA 2024 Research Grants Complete Requirements

For application submission inquiries/technical difficulties, please contact 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), \$50,000 (Access to Veterinary Care Research and Cruelty Research), and \$30,000 (Farm Animal Welfare Research).)

- Project Title

- *You will be asked to provide the following as attachments* (your document should include page numbers and be single-spaced in 11- or 12-point font):
 - o 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.
 - o Biosketch, CV, or resume for all key research personnel (no page limit).
 - 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 names of specific conferences, publications, or other outlets you will target in your dissemination efforts. Applicants should address dissemination and impact measurement beyond academic audiences: how will the findings get into the hands of those who can use them to improve animals' lives? How will you know whether they did? Preference will be given to dissemination and impact measurement plans that emphasize relevant applied audiences.
 - Note: Funding for other core costs such as Principal Investigator salary should include justification of the necessity for grant support to meet the research goals (i.e. basis for lack of institutional support such as adjunct status).
 - 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. Please ensure that project timelines are realistic based on project needs and capacity. While project rigor is of greater importance than timeframe, it is essential that applicants communicate with the ASPCA as soon as any potential impact to the project timeline is anticipated, even if prior to funding decisions.
 - Note: Requests for extensions cannot be guaranteed.
 - o Budget (use [Budget Template](#)): 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 salaries should include justification of the necessity for grant support to meet the research goals (I.e. basis for lack of institutional support such as adjunct status).
- How you learned about this grant opportunity
- [Access to Veterinary Care](#)
- [Applied Behavior](#)
- [Cruelty](#)
- [Farm Animal Welfare](#)
- [Psychological Trauma](#)

Access to Veterinary Care

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 to make veterinary care more accessible.

The ASPCA is requesting proposals for our 2024 AVC Research program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge in support 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? What conditions more frequently lead to economic euthanasia?)
- **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 animals? How do underserved clients learn about the medical needs of animals in their care? What is the most effective mechanism to market accessible services to those in need? What mechanisms are most effective to address equitability, such as social 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 access-to-care initiatives? How do veterinary professionals communicate with pet owners to incorporate their specific needs in treatment decisions?)

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

For project-related inquiries, please contact ASPCAresearch@aspca.org

Applied Behavior Research

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 2024 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 intervention(s). 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

Cruelty Research

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 2024 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

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Farm Animal Welfare

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) believes that at every step of their lives – from birth to death – all animals must be treated with compassion, protected from suffering and provided with the Five Freedoms. This is especially critical for farm animals primarily bred and raised for food production, whose economic value hinges on their meat, milk and egg yield, leaving them particularly vulnerable to exploitation.



Farm animal suffering can be reduced through more humane farming methods and through welfare-conscious and reduced animal product consumption.

The total funding amount available for this opportunity is \$50,000.

Eligible Projects

The Farm Animal Welfare Research Grant program solicits novel research that addresses the welfare of animals in the U.S. chicken, egg, and /or turkey industries. Types of research may include literature meta-analysis, survey research, economic research (e.g., the cost of transitioning to higher-welfare practices; market demand and consumer willingness to pay; taxpayer costs of current or potential policies), field research, program evaluation, or other forms of research deemed eligible by the ASPCA. Research may take into account non-animal stakeholders in order to demonstrate connections between their welfare and that of farm animals within the farming system. We especially seek research on:

- Strategies to increase the U.S. public's awareness of the welfare and product quality impacts stemming from intensive genetic selection for productivity used in the chicken, egg and turkey industries.
- Benefits, drawbacks, and logistical aspects of the U.S. meat bird industries (chicken, turkey) using conventional breeds versus breeds derived from intensive genetic selection. This may include impacts on animal welfare, food safety, worker experience, the environment, or supply chains.
- Benefits or drawbacks—for animals, people and the environment—of varying methods of stunning and slaughtering broiler chickens, turkeys, and spent egg-laying hens.
- Strategies to increase the percentage of U.S. turkeys, broiler chickens and egg-laying hens raised on pasture.
- Strategies and methods to achieve widespread U.S. egg industry adoption of in ovo sexing technology.
- Impacts of the US broiler chicken 'tournament' system and other standard labor and contract arrangements, versus alternatives.
- Reasons for, impacts of, and ways to publicize and reduce, the U.S. broiler chicken industry's morbidity and mortality rates. Eligible research includes quantification of environmental impacts.
- Ways to increase U.S. consumer literacy of chicken, turkey and egg product labels—including misleading labeling.
- Impacts and unintended consequences of consumers shifting from red meat to poultry

Research that seeks to establish proof of concept that will be used to scale a research idea and pursue additional funding is strongly encouraged.

Final materials may include either grey literature (reports) or peer-reviewed journal articles. Project proposals should include a plan to publicize or share final material with other stakeholders.

For project-related inquiries, please contact suzanne.mcmillan@aspca.org , using the subject line RFP_Question



Psychological Trauma

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 2024 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

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