

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DOG AND CAT STERILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM 2016**

2016 GRANT EXPLANATION

BACKGROUND	Dog and cat overpopulation is a tragic problem that affects all areas of Georgia. Each year thousands of healthy, friendly dogs and cats are euthanized because of pet overpopulation. In 2003, the Georgia General Assembly created the Dog and Cat Reproductive Sterilization Support Program to help with this problem through the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. Currently funds are raised by the sale of 3 dog and cat license plates, the yearly tax check off and direct donations. Since the program's inception, over 100,000 procedures have been performed by over 1,200 veterinarians.
PURPOSE	The purpose of the Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program is to provide financial assistance with sterilization procedures. The Department hopes that grant funds will ease the burden of sterilization procedures and increase the number of dogs and cats sterilized in Georgia.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	Grant applications will be assessed by a grant review committee and funding will be awarded based on the highest priority grant proposals after considering factors such as: targeting of important animal populations; ability to increase surgery numbers; cost-benefit ratio and record of grant applicant and sustainability. All eligible organizations must reside in Georgia in order to be eligible for the Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program. Once a grant has been awarded, the recipient must complete a final progress report showing all sterilization procedures performed. Grant funds may only be used for sterilization surgery and shall not be used for capital or administrative expenses or for procedures not directly related to sterilization surgery, such as promotions, vaccinations, testing, licensing, food, medicine, and/or other medical procedures.
NON-PROFIT ANIMAL RESCUES AND VETERINARY ASSOCIATIONS	Nonprofit Animal Rescue Organizations must be licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Nonprofit organizations including Veterinary Associations applying for funds are required to have been in existence for at least 12 months and have 501(c)(3) status at the time of filing the grant application. Nonprofits must provide a copy of the nonprofit status form 501(c)(3) issued by the Internal Revenue Service. (Do not send a copy of a tax return or a copy of incorporation by the Georgia Secretary of State to fulfill this requirement.) Nonprofit rescues must also provide proof of incorporation by the Georgia Secretary of State.

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<p>MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS</p>	<p>Municipal animal shelters must be licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Effective July 1, 1999, every county and city within that county is required to adopt a Service Delivery Strategy. This strategy is an implementation plan among cities and counties to provide local government services and resolve land use conflicts within the county. These strategies are submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for approval and the DCA is in charge of monitoring compliance. Because of this law, no state-administered financial assistance can be awarded to a local municipality that is not in compliance. To determine whether your municipality is in compliance, visit DCA's website at: http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/service_delivery.asp All local municipality applicants verifying eligibility must submit a compliance certification</p>
<p>APPLICATION SUBMISSION</p>	<p>An application may be downloaded from the Department's website at http://agr.georgia.gov/dog-cat-sterilization-program.aspx All applicants must provide a letter of collaboration from a Georgia licensed and accredited veterinarian that will be performing the sterilization procedure and a copy of a current Georgia animal shelter license. Completed applications are due by no later than the close of business on October 17, 2016</p>
<p>NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS</p>	<p>Applicants will be notified in writing of grant decisions by no later than 12/31/16. Grantees will be required to sign an agreement and fill out a W-9 before receiving grant funds.</p>
<p>AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS</p>	<p>Grant funds will be awarded based on availability of funds. Grant funds may only be used for spay and/or neuter procedures. Grant requests must not exceed applicant's ability to perform services within the 12 month period.</p>
<p>STATE AUDIT</p>	<p>Any recipient of a grant made by a state agency shall be subject to audit by the state auditor for the purpose of confirming compliance with state law and the performance of the terms of the grant pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 28-5-125</p>