

40-13-14-.01 Eligibility.

- (1) The veterinarian that performs a procedure utilizing the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program must be licensed by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine and accredited by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The veterinarian must request financial assistance in writing or by facsimile or electronic mail from the Georgia Department of Agriculture prior to performing a procedure. If funds are available, the veterinarian will receive written approval from the Department to performing each procedure.
- (3) The veterinarian must perform all surgical procedures using acceptable standards of care.
- (4) Both the animal and owner must reside in Georgia in order for the veterinarian to perform a procedure utilizing the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program.

40-13-14-.02 Distribution of Dog and Cat Sterilization Funds to Veterinarian.

- (1) Each licensed and accredited veterinarian in Georgia may apply to perform a maximum of ~~three~~ five procedures per month.
- (2) The veterinarian must inform the owner or agent in writing of any additional procedures with additional charges (i.e. vaccinations, laboratory services, pain medication, etc.) prior to performing additional services.
- (3) The following two forms must be received by the Georgia Department of Agriculture in order to disperse funds for sterilization procedures.
 - (a) "Veterinarian's Application for Financial Assistance".
 - (b) "Veterinary Claim for Payment Owner/Client Verification of Surgical Procedure" must be received within 60 days of the date of approval of the "Veterinarian's Application for Financial Assistance".
- (4) Financial assistance for sterilization procedures shall be:
 - (a) feline castration \$35.00
 - (b) feline ovariohysterectomy \$45.00
 - (c) canine castration \$55.00
 - (d) canine ovariohysterectomy \$65.00

The veterinarian shall inform the client in writing of the non-subsidized part of the sterilization fee for which the client shall be responsible.

40-13-14-.03 Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program.

- (1) Licensed municipal animal shelters and licensed nonprofit animal rescue organizations with 501(c)(3) status may apply to the Department for a grant to assist with sterilization procedures on animals that are owned or in possession, custody, or control of the municipal animal shelter or nonprofit animal rescue and are to be adopted by Georgia private owners.
- (2) A completed application must be received by the Department in order to be eligible for the grant program. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- (3) Along with the completed grant application, the grant applicant must provide a letter of collaboration from a Georgia licensed and accredited veterinarian that will be performing the sterilization procedure(s).
- (4) 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, including but not limited, to: targeting of important animal populations, ability to increase surgery numbers, cost-benefit ratio, record of grant applicant, and sustainability.
- (5) A follow up report must be provided to the Department showing all sterilization procedures performed.
- (6) Grant funds may only be used for sterilization surgery. Grant funds may 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, etc.
- (7) Grant funds may not be used to operate spay and/or neuter clinics, but may only be used for animals that are owned or in possession, custody or control of the licensed municipal animal shelter and/or licensed nonprofit animal rescue.
- (8) The veterinarian that performs a procedure utilizing the Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program must be licensed by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine and accredited by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (9) The veterinarian must perform all surgical procedures using acceptable standards of care.
- (10) Both the animal and municipal animal shelter and/or nonprofit animal rescue organization must reside in Georgia in order for the veterinarian to perform a procedure utilizing the Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program.