

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

- (1) When funds are available, licensed municipal animal shelters ~~and~~ located in Georgia, licensed nonprofit animal rescue organizations with 501(c)(3) status located in Georgia, and veterinary medical foundations with 501(c)(3) status located in Georgia may apply to the Department for a grant to assist with sterilization procedures on dogs and cats.
- (2) A completed application must be timely received by the Department in order for an applicant to be eligible for the grant program. Incomplete and/or untimely applications will not be considered.
- (3) Along with the completed grant application, the grant applicant must provide a letter of collaboration from a the Georgia licensed and accredited veterinarian(s) 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,~~ The grant review committee will consider factors including, but not limited to, the following: targeting of important animal populations, ability to increase surgery numbers, cost-benefit ratio, record of grant applicant, and sustainability.
- (5) All procedures shall be completed within twelve (12) months of receipt of Grant funds.
- (6) A ~~follow-up report~~ Final Progress Report ~~must~~ shall be provided to the Department showing all sterilization procedures performed within 30 days of the completion of the last sterilization procedure utilizing Grant funds. Failure to timely submit the required Final Progress Report in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for future Grants.
- (7) Grant funds ~~may~~ shall only be used for sterilization surgery. Grant funds ~~may~~ 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, etc.
- (8) The veterinarian that performs a sterilization procedure utilizing the Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program funds 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~~ accredited in the USDA National Accreditation Program, and approved by the State Veterinarian office to perform accreditation duties in Georgia.
- (9) The veterinarian must perform all surgical sterilization procedures using acceptable standards of care as prescribed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines.
- (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.~~ The Dog and Cat Sterilization Grant Program funds shall not be used to assist with sterilization procedures on dogs and/or cats residing outside of Georgia or for trap, neuter and release programs.

- (11) Grant announcements and application directions will be made available by the Department. ~~Applications will be due within thirty (30) days from the date of the grant announcement. one week prior to the commencement of the Grant application period.~~ Applications will be due ~~within thirty (30) days from the date of the grant announcement~~ as designated by the Department.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 4-15-1.