

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

(1) When funds are available, 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 dogs and cats. ~~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.~~

~~(7)~~ (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.

(8) ~~(9)~~ The veterinarian must perform all surgical procedures using acceptable standards of care as prescribed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines.

(9) ~~(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.

(10) ~~(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.