

The Pets Foundation Criteria for support

The Pets Foundation provides funding to charitable organisations whose main activity is one or more of the following:

- the rehoming of UK domestic pets (Rescuing and Rehoming)
- the provision of temporary or ongoing assistance to ensure pets can remain with their owners, where rehoming takes place only when it is not possible to reunite the pet with their owner
- changing the lives of adults and children through the provision of pet-based activities and practical assistance

1. All organisations

- 1.1. The organisation must have been operating for a minimum of 2 years.
- 1.2. The organisation is based within the UK, Isle of Man or Guernsey and carries out its activities within these areas.
- 1.3. Organisations based within England, Wales or Scotland must be a Registered Charity, either with the Charity Commission or the OSCR in Scotland (or Companies House for CICs).
- 1.4. All organisations based in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man must be registered as a charity with the relevant local body.
- 1.5. All organisations (Registered Charity or CIC) must have a board of at least three unrelated trustees or directors.
- 1.6. The majority of animals involved in the organisation's work must be commonly considered as domestic pets (including equines).
- 1.7. The Pets Foundation does not fund organisations which operate as petting farms and/or city farms.
- 1.8. The Pets Foundation prioritises the funding of medium and small charitable organisations. We are unlikely to fund any organisation which is, itself, a grant-making organisation. Any large charity or grant-giving charity should contact us before making an application.

2. Rescue and rehoming organisations

- 2.1. The organisation's main charitable activity must be the rescue and rehoming of domestic pets.

- 2.2. The significant majority of each pet species the organisation rescues must be from within the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands.¹
- 2.3. The Foundation does not support organisations which operate primarily as sanctuaries.
- 2.4. All organisations will, where applicable, (first) vaccinate, microchip, neuter, and treat all pets for fleas and worms prior to rehoming, except where a vet advises otherwise. If it is not possible to neuter an animal prior to adoption, the rescue should have a contract in place with the new owner that states they are committed to neutering their pet at a later date, if not paid for by the rescue (checks may be made with the rescue's vet).
- 2.5. Any dog and/or cat rescue and rehoming charity with an income of over £1m must be a member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes.

3. The provision of assistance to prevent pet relinquishment

- 3.1. The charitable activity for which the organisation is seeking funding must be one or more of the following:
 - the provision of temporary ('foster') care to pets for reasons including, but not limited to, their owner entering sheltered accommodation, needing hospitalisation, or escaping domestic abuse *and/or*
 - the provision of practical assistance to pet owners struggling to care for their pet due to their own ill-health, physical disability, financial circumstances or because they are homeless or vulnerably housed

4. Provision of assistance animals to improve the lives of people.

- 4.1. The organisation's **main** charitable activity is one or more of the following:
 - providing trained assistance animals to assist adults and children with disabilities to lead more independent lives
 - providing animal-based learning/therapy for vulnerable adults and children; this must be in the form of regularly held structured animal-assisted-learning/therapy activities run by appropriately qualified individuals and using appropriately assessed animals
- 4.2. If the organisation's main charitable activity is the provision of assistance dogs, it must be a member or candidate member of Assistance Dogs UK.
- 4.3. If your organisation works with other animals, e.g. equines, please contact us for advice.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you have any queries regarding whether your organisation falls within our current funding criteria.

¹ Exceptions are made for rescues which rehome pets which were brought into the UK for another purpose (working/racing dogs) and which have now found themselves needing a new home.