



# **BC SPCA COMMUNITY ANIMAL SPAY/NEUTER GRANT PROGRAM**

**2023 APPLICATION GUIDE**

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

# BC SPCA Community Animal Spay/Neuter Grant Program

The BC SPCA Community Animal Spay/Neuter Grant Program supports non-profit community organizations, veterinarians, and regional, municipal and First Nations governments to implement targeted low-cost spay/neuter projects. The goal of this grant program is to assist communities working to address community cat population growth and support remote communities through spay and neuter in British Columbia.

To date, the grant program has provided funding to fix more than 5,000 cats and 350 dogs across the province.

## Applications are accepted from:

- First Nation governments
- Municipal and regional district governments
- Registered animal welfare charities and non-profits
- Veterinary clinics and hospitals

## Types of spay/neuter projects funded

### Cat Spay/Neuter Program

Funds must be targeted toward reducing the number of free-roaming or feral cats in a community.

#### 1. **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)**

Free roaming cats, defined as intact neighbourhood or community-fed cats, abandoned cats, unfriendly, or feral cats living in cat groups, where there are one or more caretakers.

#### 2. **Cats on First Nation Land**

Owned and unowned cats that are cared for by owners/guardians in a First Nation community.

### Dog Spay/Neuter Program

First Nation governments are eligible to apply for funding to spay/neuter owned and unowned dogs that are cared for by owners/guardians in a First Nation community.

## Selection Criteria for all projects

- **Identified number of animals:** Must include a current estimate of the number of both: 1. altered and unaltered free-roaming animals, or 2. estimates of the number of owned unaltered pets for the grant project, and provide an explanation for how this number was determined.  
For community cats, the grant provides funding for cats returned to the cat group (e.g. not kittens that are adopted out), please ensure this is incorporated in your count and explanation.
- **Targeted approach:** The applicant has identified a geographically defined target area, such as a First Nation community, cat group location, or specific address where the animals are located.
- **Commitment:** The applicant is committed to spaying and neutering at least 95% of the animals in each of the groups/communities listed in the grant application by February 24, 2023. (e.g., if you know of 3 cat groups, but can only get 2 fully completed in the year, apply for 2).
- **Cat group or community knowledge:** The applicant has 1. An established relationship with the cat caretaker and can confirm shelter and water is available and provided for the cats; the caretaker is informed and on board with the TNR process or 2. An established relationship with the community and knowledge of previous work and needs to create change.
- **Prioritization of approved cat groups/communities:** The applicant commits to prioritizing the groups and communities for which they were approved. If other cat groups require TNR, based on urgency of need, the grantee will contact the BC SPCA and create a plan to ensure funding is accounted for and initial application spay/neuter targets can still be met.
- **Matching funds:** The applicant must prove their ability to provide enough matching funding to pay for additional costs incurred (see “Matching Funds”). The source can come from municipal funds, community foundations, corporate sponsors, or public/private donations. For First Nation governments, if no matching funds are available, then cost falls to community members (see FAQ: what expenses are the grantee required to pay).
- **Vaccinations:** The applicant commits to ensuring animals are vaccinated.
- **Veterinary commitment:** The applicant must provide documentation from participating veterinarian(s) willing to provide discounted rates for the animals covered by the grant. If you require support connecting with a veterinary clinic in your region, please contact [spayneuter@spca.bc.ca](mailto:spayneuter@spca.bc.ca).
- **Partner commitment:** If the project includes a partnership, such as a First Nation community, a letter of support regarding the project must be provided from this partner.
- **Project administrator:** There must be an identified project administrator to manage community relationships, administer the program, and fulfill all reporting requirements.

## How can I apply?

- Complete the appropriate application form located on the [BC SPCA website](#) (Note: applications for cat groups and cats on First Nation land must be submitted separately as they are separate granting categories);
- Submit a letter of partnership from your veterinary partner and any other program partners;
- Submit all required documents. Applications with missing documents will not be reviewed;
- Email the complete application to [spayneuter@spca.bc.ca](mailto:spayneuter@spca.bc.ca);
- Completed application must be received by email no later than February 24, 2023. The BC SPCA will provide confirmation of receipt by email for all applications received.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will everyone be approved?

The goal of this funding program is to make a demonstrated impact on a group of animals. Applications targeted at fixing 95% of the animals identified in a cat group or community will be prioritized. All applicants will be evaluated using the selection criteria (see above).

### What are the expectations of grant recipients?

- Able to communicate via email for grant reporting;
- Able to track each individual animal and surgery cost in a digital Excel spreadsheet provided by the BC SPCA and provide a completed spreadsheet before or on the dates indicated in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA);
- For cat groups: Able to provide an address or neighbourhood of where cat groups are located and provide updates as requested by the BC SPCA;
- Provide recognition for BC SPCA funding in communications about the work that is done with the funds in both social and traditional media and web content;
- Able to meet the program reporting deadlines;
- Able to follow the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by both parties.

### Why do you require TNR to be targeted?

The goal of targeted TNR is to trap every cat in a group or specific area, before expanding to surrounding cat groups. This is the evidence-based proven solution to help the most cats and provides the best results to reduction in the cat population in the most efficient way. If you are approved for funding, you will receive a grant to cover 100% of the group in order to ensure this reduction in cats.

## What expenses will the grant cover?

BC SPCA grant funds will cover the full cost of the following:

- 1) Spay/Neuter Surgery (All necessary inclusions: pain control, IV fluids, cryptorchid/in-heat/pregnancy surcharges)
- 2) Permanent ID - Must be tattooed, microchipped, or ear tipped

## How do you calculate the amount of funding my organization receives?

Grants awarded range between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Funding is calculated based on the number of animals indicated that are unfixed in each cat group or community. As our goal is to make a demonstrated impact, we provide funding for 100% of the animals that need to be fixed in a group or community. Calculation on the costs indicated in the veterinary letter of support assume a 60:40 female:male sex ratio and 15% of females pregnant or in heat.

## What expenses are the grantee required to pay?

The grant applicant must provide enough matching funding to pay for additional costs incurred for each animal. Below is a list of potential expenses that are the responsibility of the grantee to cover. Vaccinations as recommended by the Vet are required for all spayed/neutered animals that are part of the program.

- Start-up and ongoing costs (cat traps, ferry fees, gas fees, etc.)
- Vaccinations
- Medical treatments (ear flush, abscesses, etc.)
- Disease testing
- Parasite treatment (ear mites, fleas, etc.)
- Euthanasia where surgery is not a viable option due to poor health
- Spay/neuter for kittens removed from the colony, socialized, and adopted out

## Can the funds be used to spay or neuter animals adopted out by our organization?

No, surgeries for kittens that are removed from a group to be socialized and adopted out must be funded through adoption fees or other sources available to the grant recipient. The focus of the BC SPCA Community Animal Spay/Neuter Grant is to fund spay/neuter surgeries for free-roaming community animals or the surgeries of animals cared for by owners/guardians in a First Nation community.

If the aim of your project is to adopt out community animals, please contact [spayneuter@spca.bc.ca](mailto:spayneuter@spca.bc.ca) for alternative program options.

## What are the application and reporting requirements and deadlines?

Approved grant recipients are responsible for tracking the individual surgeries and costs for each animal covered by the grant in provided reporting documents. Additional documentation may be required.

- February 24, 2023 Applications due
- March 31, 2023 Signed Memorandum of Agreement
- June 30, 2023 Mid-Report
- October 31, 2023 Final Report