



BC SPCA COMMUNITY ANIMAL SPAY/NEUTER GRANT PROGRAM

2024 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 the Northern Region through spay and neuter.

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 Northern BC with priority for:

- First Nation governments
- Registered animal welfare charities and non-profits
- Veterinary clinics and hospitals partnered with any of the above



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

- **Applicants based in Northern BC:** Must be living or working in the Northern Region (see map on page 2) and completing the project in the North to be eligible.
- **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).
- **Targeted approach:** The applicant has identified a geographically defined target area within the Northern Region, such as a First Nation community, cat group location, or specific address, where the animals are located.
- **Commitment:** The research show that the best results are from projects where 95% of the cats are spayed/neutered in the cat group. The program supports organizations who are committed to striving for this 95% S/N goal.
- **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 current situation.
- **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 will be met.
- **Matching funds:** The applicant must prove their ability to provide matching funding to pay for additional costs incurred (see “Matching Funds”). This can come from municipal funds, community foundations, corporate sponsors, or public/private donations. For First Nation governments, if no matching funds are available, cost falls to community members (see FAQ: what expenses are the grantee required to pay).
- **Vaccinations and permanent ID:** The applicant commits to ensuring all animals are vaccinated and ID'ed and is permitted to use grant funds to cover these costs.
- **Veterinary commitment:** The applicant must provide documentation from participating veterinarian(s) willing to provide discounted rates for the animals covered by the grant.
- **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 the 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?

1. Book a 30 minute application interview on the [BC SPCA website](#) between January 8 and February 8, 2024.
2. After the interview, send completed application form and all other documents (veterinary letter, partnership letter if applicable) to spayneuter@spca.bc.ca. Applications with missing documents will not be approved.
3. Grants will be approved on a first come first serve basis to qualified and approved grantees until all funding is allocated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the application process changed for 2024?

Innovative granting best practices include investing in relationships and removing top down approaches of reviewing applications. The BC SPCA is committed to establishing partnerships with our funding recipients.

Why are only northern applicants eligible?

In accordance with the BC SPCA's strategic priority of supporting the most vulnerable animals in the province, the Northern Region was identified as requiring more support. Additionally, TNR research has proven that a targeted approach will have the biggest positive impact on animal welfare.

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 solution to help the most cats and provides the best results of reduction in cat population in the most efficient way.

Will everyone be approved?

The goal of this funding program is to make a demonstrated impact on community animals in the Northern Region. 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 (page 3).

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 an Excel spreadsheet provided by the BC SPCA and submit 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 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 social and traditional media and web content
- Able to meet the program reporting deadlines
- Able to follow the MOA signed by both parties

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
3. Vaccinations - As recommended by the vet are required for all spayed/neutered animals that are part of the program.

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. 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 grantee must provide enough matching funds to pay for additional costs incurred for each animal. Below is a list of potential expenses that are the responsibility of the grantee. 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.)
- 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.

What are the application and reporting requirements and deadlines?

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

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| • January 8 - February 8, 2024 | Application interviews are open |
| • January 8 - February 8, 2024 | Send completed applications and documents after interview |
| • March 1, 2024 | Sign MOA |
| • June 30, 2024 | Mid-Report Due |
| • October 31, 2024 | Final Report Due |