



Animal Sheltering & Adoptions

Fort Bend County Animal Services

R-2306-45232 - Animal Welfare Organization
Amount Requested:

Status

Draft

Organization Information

Organization: Fort Bend County Animal Services
Primary Contact: Barbara Vass
Primary Signatory: KP George

Thank you for all you do to save pet lives and welcome to Petco Love's 2023 Animal Welfare Organization (AWO) application. We know you're doing great work, and want you to have the best chance to receive lifesaving grant investments. Before you begin, we encourage you to read the [AWO Grant Application Instructions](#). Silly mistakes happen to great organizations, and sadly may result in a denied application. Don't let that happen to your organization – read the instructions carefully.

IMPORTANT: THIS IS A TWO-PART APPLICATION

This application requires that your organization has completed a 2022 [Annual Data Report](#). This report must be submitted by **July 31, 2023** for your grant investment application to be considered. Information about completing the Annual Data Report can be found on the Organization's tab on the main dashboard of this site. You will find the Organization section on the left-hand menu.

Annual Data Reports are due annually by March 31. Complete your Annual Data Report on time each year to be eligible for all partner benefits including Adoption Rewards, fast-track disaster relief, and other partner perks!

Information Verification

Please navigate to the "Organization Info" section of the Fluxx Grants Portal and verify that the following information is correct: **organization type, executive officer, and mailing address**. *Note: Descriptions of organization types may be found on our Animal Welfare Organization (AWO) Grant Application Instructions linked above.*

Do you need to update your organization type, executive officer, or mailing address? No

Has your organization submitted the 2022 Annual Data Report? YES

Is your organization currently integrated in Petco Love Lost? Yes

Is the primary contact listed above the correct contact for Petco Love Lost communication? : Yes

Do you promote Petco Love Lost on your website? No

Please paste the URL/link to your org's lost/found resources page, including Petco Love Lost: www.fortbendcountypets.com

Please use the following link to add Petco Love Lost to your website: [Partner Guide for Website Presence](#)

Did your organization have a yearly intake of 250 or more pets in the previous year? Yes

Animal Welfare Organization Request Details

Petco Love uses the information provided in your application and Annual Data Report to evaluate your organization's effectiveness and efficiency against your peers.

Beginning of 2022 we are no longer asking you to submit a requested amount. Instead, please use the description box below to share the purpose of your investment request, including how the investment will increase lifesaving in your community. Petco Love provides un-restricted funding. If awarded an investment, your organization may utilize funds for any purpose that increases in your lifesaving results, or other significant positive lifesaving impact for pets in your community.

Please describe the purpose of your investment request, including its lifesaving impact.

Use of Investment:

We have been very fortunate and incredibly grateful to have been the recipients of lifesaving funds from Petco Love and the impact those funds have had on our shelter, pets and community have helped to change the course of our shelter and enabled us to reach and maintain our 90% save rate since August 2018.

Like most animal welfare organizations, we are struggling with being without a veterinarian on site (for more than 18 months now), being overwhelmed and overcrowded, we have been holding the large blocky-headed whatevers longer than we ever have before (our length of stay has gone from 14 days to 29 days over the last year) and holding up to 280 dogs in a physical space for 90. All the while trying to maintain the health and safety of our pets as well as our staff and volunteers and still serve the best interests of our community.

Looking ahead, our greatest needs are with our Community Cat Program, Animal Technician staff, Lifesaving Program Aide and transport/disaster recovery trailer and increasing services for our underserved population.

Please provide other important information that may be relevant or important to our consideration of your request. Attachments may be added in the Attachments and Certifications section.

Additional Information:

What we are anticipating in our needs in order to continue to maintain our lifesaving efforts is to supplement our Community Cat Program. Petco Love was instrumental in 2018 in allowing us to begin our pilot program with grant funds and to date we have had over 6500 cats go through our program successfully. With the loss of our veterinarian, we have been struggling to maintain the numbers of cats we can help due the constraints of the County budget. We are very lucky to have a veterinary partner who is reasonable in cost for surgeries, but even at that level, the County does not allow us to exceed \$50,000 a budget year for TNR/SNR and we are already beyond that number with four months left in the budget year. This also impacts our ability to serve our community. When we did have our own vet, we could accommodate up to 75 cats/kittens per week in-house, three days a week. Now, we are limited to one day per week, one cat per household and 30 cats/kittens per week. This does a disservice to the cats/kittens and to the community, which despite us already having spayed/neutered over 6500 cats, we have had a very robust bottle baby season already.

With the increased length of stay as well as the increase in the number of pets we are now caring for, from an average of 140 to 270 (which we believe is now going to be our new normal), we have not yet been allocated an increase to our staff that would be able to care for all of our new pets. We ask a lot of our animal technicians, from everyday care, feeding and cleaning our pets, to maintaining the shelter, help with playgroups, working with the public, responsible for intake, etc. and they are averaging about 30 pets per day each, and that's on the days when we are fully staffed. Saturday-Tuesday, we only have 4 techs on site each day to account for weekend hours. We were looking at hiring two part time animal technicians to help clean and feed from Saturday-Tuesday, but the County does not hire part-time for our division and there are no funds available for it if they did.

Also, we were looking at hiring a part-time position as our Lifesaving Programs Aide. The position is currently staffed by a grant through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) which was to remain in place through September 30, 2024. However, we were recently informed that the position would be eliminated and not replaced as of September 30, 2023. This position has been vital to us in order to successfully create a transport program with Dog Is My Co-Pilot (thanks to Petco Love again!). This position has allowed us to have someone who is dedicated to reaching out to potential transport and rescue partners and then network the pets available. They take care of the entire process not only of these transports but manages our foster program as well. Without this position, which we do believe can be accomplished with a four day per week schedule, we will only have one full time person in our Lifesaving program to cover adoptions, rescue, foster, volunteer, social media, and transports for almost 4500 pets per year.

One of our goals this year is to be prepared for emergency situations to transport our shelter pets and owned animals if needed to temporary housing during a crisis situation with an 8x25 trailer. This trailer can also be used for adoption events so that our "travelling circus" of dogs do not have to be out in the Texas heat during an event with volunteers fanning them!

With the influx of pets, we are hearing more and more that the reason that people are not able to keep them is that they can no longer afford basic medical care and food. Thanks to Petco Love, we have been able to take care of vaccinating quite a number of the pets in our community and look forward to more events as soon as the Texas heat lets up for us. We do want to do more though and would like to be able to consistently offer food relief and basic care items like leashes, collars, fence fixing and more that we do not have the funding for through our County budget.

We know that a very vital and important service is free and low-cost spay/neuter services. We would like to be able to provide that as well by reaching out to some of the mobile clinics in the Houston area who would be willing to come out to our shelter and provide those services to our community members in need. While the County does provide those services monthly, we cannot keep up with the demand - when we post for our mobile event, all 25 spaces are usually filled within 2 hours. If we could find a way to provide these services more often, it would be amazing for the pets to have an opportunity to stay in their homes.

Do any of these unique circumstances apply to your request? :

Transfer Partnerships

Did your organization transfer in animals from shelters OTHER THAN your local shelter in the last calendar year? : NO

Lost & Found

Does your organization have a Return to Owner (RTO) goal? Yes

How often do you review/evaluate your progress towards that goal? Annually

Does every adopted and/or reclaimed pet leave your care with information about Petco Love Lost? : Yes

Does your organization have a program or process to waive reclaim fees for RTO? : Yes

On average how many animals does your organization have on hand on a given day? 250

On average, what percentage of pets in care on a given day are visible in your Petco Love Lost feed? Not Applicable

If less than 75%, why? :

While we have been integrated into Petco Love Lost for quite a while, it's all on our IT department on why we have not been able to have the service prominently displayed on our website. For the last 2 years, we have been waiting for our webpage to be updated and it can only be done now through the County webmaster. In the past, I was able to update our website as needed to make sure that all of our information was up to date. When the County revamped their IT department and brought on a webmaster, departmental editing rights were taken away and there has been no concrete process put back in place for the majority of the departments, including Health and Human Services (which we fall under) to remedy that yet.

Does your organization utilize the Petco Love Lost toolkit? : Yes

Please find the Petco Love Lost toolkit here

Partnership & Recognition

Recognition:

Your recognition of Petco Love to your supporters and within your community encourages Petco customers to feel confident in making a donation to Petco Love at the register when they shop. This fundraising in small amounts (averaging around \$2 per transaction) helps support Petco Love's grant investments program in a way that does not diminish your own fundraising efforts. It's incredible that simply by collecting these small contributions we are able to provide approximately \$30 million annually to shelters like yours each year!

Are you willing to work with Petco Love, Petco, and any other corporate partner or organization designated by Petco Love to recognize and promote this award?

Agree to recognize investment: Yes

Describe your relationship with Petco Love and/or Petco stores, if applicable.

Relationship:

We are so grateful for our relationship with Petco Love which began in 2017 and has been vital in our success. This incredible partnership has allowed us to achieve and maintain a 90% save rate since August 2018, purchase a much needed transport van, fund our fledgling TNR program, participate in amazing events like Houston Mega and of course, our new relationship with Dog Is My Co-Pilot. We cannot even imagine where we would be without you!

Our only hurdle is that we cannot seem to get on track with in-store adoptions. We have tried multiple times to secure a space and have not been successful so we hope that soon, we will be able to be in our local Petco.

Documents & attachments

To submit your request you must upload the following documents in this section. Click the headings below for instructions. Please read the instructions carefully as failure to upload required documents will result in your application being denied.

▼ Other required documents uploading instructions

To upload:

- Click the plus sign
- Click "add files"
- Select the correct files from your computer
- Use the drop-down menu to add the correct label to each file
- Click "start upload"

Other required documents:

- **IRS Form 990 or other financial document** - All nonprofit organizations are required to submit their most recent IRS Form 990, excluding schedules. If your organization does not file a Form 990, please attach audited financial statements, if available, or otherwise un-audited financial statements. Municipal agencies should attach their animal control budget document.

Optional documents:

Other documents commonly associated with requests may include capital campaign materials, sponsorship information, photos or other items. Please limit other documents to those critical to your request.

DOCUMENTS



FY 2023 FBCAS Budget.pdf



Adoption Center Operating Agreement

Added by Barbara Vass at 12:03 PM on June 12, 2023

Certification

- I certify that the leader of the organization (CEO/Executive Director/President or similar title) has reviewed and approved this application and the accompanying Annual Data Report.
- I certify that I am an officer or authorized representative of the organization submitting this application and that all information on this grant application is true and correct in all material respects.
- I agree that any funds granted will be used specifically to accomplish lifesaving objectives.
- I agree on behalf of the organization that as a partner of Petco Love any public messaging that includes information about Petco Love shall promote a positive message about helping pets and saving lives.
- I agree on behalf of the organization that its representatives shall not disparage or speak negatively or take any action intended, or which would reasonably be expected, to harm Petco Love or its reputation or which would reasonably be expected to lead to unwanted or unfavorable publicity to Petco Love.
- I certify and agree that any and all information submitted is not considered confidential, will become the property of Petco Love, and that Petco Love may use such information as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.
- *If you cannot agree to these conditions, you may not submit this grant application.*

Select "yes" to agree:

Yes

Are you submitting this application on behalf of a governmental or municipal agency, department or division?

Select "yes" or "no"

Yes

I hereby certify that any grant funds awarded will be utilized and become an additive part of the funding on the animal control sheltering department, shall not supplant or diminish government allocated funds, and shall not be appropriated to the general funds of the municipality.

If you cannot agree to this condition, you may not submit this grant application.

Select "yes" to agree:

IMPORTANT: The "Submit" button will appear after you select "Save and Close". After you save your form for the last time it is not submitted until you click the "Submit" button at the bottom of this page. You may verify that your request has been submitted by checking the menu to assure your request has moved from "Pending Requests" to "Submitted Requests".