



July 1, 2026

Thank you for partnering with the Ahimsa Foundation for the welfare of animals. We are proud to support you.

To continue supporting animals to the greatest extent, the trustees of the Ahimsa Foundation have adopted new guidelines and criteria for grant funding. We believe these changes best reflect how the foundation can continue the legacy started by Mrs. Elsie P. Mitchell and provide the most impactful support to animals.

Beginning with the Spring 2027 grant cycle, the foundation is instituting multi-year funding grants for selected organizations and continuing annual animal care funding grants. New minimum criteria have been established for organization eligibility for each type of grant funding. Spring and Fall grant cycle timing will remain the same.

Grant invitations will remain carefully administered and extended only to selected organizations to ensure an equitable process for all involved. Please do not share this information with individuals outside your organization.

You can find all the details on the included documents or online at **AhimsaFoundationBoston.org/grant-funding**. Additionally, a Virtual Q&A session will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, July 22, @ 2:00 pm EDT/11:00 am PDT. See the webpage above or an email invitation to attend the session live or view the replay after July 22. Please submit questions to Jen@AhimsaFoundationBoston.org before the 22nd. Those attending live can also ask questions via the Zoom chat feature.

Thank you for the important work you are doing as we collaborate for the future of animals.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen".

Jen Bonnett
Executive Administrator



Grant Funding Cycle Updates

July 2026

The following guidelines and criteria have been adopted by the Ahimsa Foundation for future grant funding cycles, beginning in Spring 2027. Spring and Fall grant cycle timing will remain the same.

Animal Care Guiding Principles

To support the safety and care of all animals, the Ahimsa Foundation embraces these guiding principles. The foundation prioritizes funding for organizations that demonstrate these principles in their animal care practices.

Nutrition: Plentiful nutrition is provided for all animals in the organization's care that is appropriate and healthy for the species of animal. Dietary considerations for unwell animals are provided in consultation with veterinary or wildlife professionals.

Housing/Exercise: Housing and exercise provided are appropriate for the species, size, behavior, and condition of all animals in the organization's care.

Medical Care: Animals are assessed and monitored for health and wellness, and any medical conditions are treated in consultation with veterinary or wildlife professionals.

Sterilization/Birth Control/Breeding: Sterilization or birth control, as recommended for the species, is provided by the organization before offering animals for adoption, returning to feral cat colonies, or placing them into a sanctuary. Appropriate monitoring and care are provided for animals following sterilization procedures. The Ahimsa Foundation does not support the intentional breeding of any animals except for those considered endangered species.

Euthanasia: Procedures are in place to care for animals who are suffering and not expected to recover. Any euthanasia protocols must include consultation with veterinary or wildlife professionals.

Safety Measures: Consideration and planning have occurred in the following areas:

- All animal areas, both indoor and outdoor, are secure against animal escapes and unauthorized human entry.
- Housing/exercise areas are free of hazards and take into consideration animal interactions that could cause harm.
- How to evacuate or secure animals during natural disasters/weather events, fires, or other emergencies.
- How off-hours monitoring of animals occurs in the event of emergencies or unauthorized entry.

Adoption/Sanctuary: When possible and appropriate, animals are prepared for and made available for adoption, utilizing screening procedures to help ensure success, or wildlife are rehabilitated and released into their natural habitats. If animals cannot be adopted or released back into the wild due to medical or behavioral conditions, they receive lifetime sanctuary care.

*For organizations that provide resources and support for other animal care organizations in lieu of direct care, please consider these principles in the selection of the organizations with which you work.

**Submitting current videos and thorough descriptions in the application is required to help evaluators assess how your organization aligns with these principles.

General Funding Guidelines

These guidelines apply to all types of funding provided by the Ahimsa Foundation.

- The Ahimsa Foundation will not grant funds exceeding 10% of an organization's total prior-year revenue (e.g., if prior-year revenue was \$100,000, annual grant funding will not exceed \$10,000).
- Grant awards will generally not exceed \$25,000 per year.
- The Ahimsa Foundation will not accept funding applications from organizations with annual operating budgets consistently exceeding \$5.5 million.

Annual Animal Care Funding

This is essentially the funding the Ahimsa Foundation has typically extended in recent years. These grants are awarded for direct animal care expenses, such as food, veterinary care, animal supplies, medications, etc. To help alleviate some burden, we are endeavoring to shorten the grant application and streamline the application process for these annual grants. Any organization interested in applying for funding must meet all of the following *minimum* criteria to be invited to apply for an annual animal care grant.

Organizational Governance & Leadership Criteria

1. Minimum of three members on the board of directors, with members holding a minimum of the following offices: President/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary/Clerk. The majority of members should be independent and unrelated. The board member identified as President/Chair should not also hold the Treasurer position.
2. Must be registered in the United States of America as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The organization must operate as a public charity, not a private foundation.

Fiscal Management Criteria

1. Ability to submit basic, clear, accurate financial reports, including an annual budget with revenue/expenses and actual prior year revenue/expenses in U.S. dollars. We expect full transparency in financials, including grant/foundation, bequest, reserve/emergency, in-kind/non-cash contributions, and endowment information.
2. Must maintain a minimum of one other grant/foundation funder other than the Ahimsa Foundation. These are foundations/grants that you make an application to in order to receive funding. The Ahimsa Foundation wants to ensure that other funders review your organization's financial and operational materials and find it worthy of funding.
3. Must submit, by the requested due date, a Grant Impact Report for prior Ahimsa Foundation funding. Failure to do so will render the organization ineligible for its next applicable grant round.

Animal Impact Criteria

1. Demonstrate safe and appropriate animal care practices (nutrition, housing/exercise, medical care, sterilization/birth control, euthanasia, safety measures, adoption/sanctuary). See Animal Care Guiding Principles for more information.

Multi-Year Funding

This funding supports organizations with animal care and/or general operating expenses. It is aimed at organizations that have demonstrated nonprofit best practices, including diversified funding streams. Multi-year funding will consist of completing one thorough application every three years, with short Grant Impact Reports submitted annually. These organizations will be pre-selected by the Ahimsa Foundation and invited to apply for this specific funding. If you believe your organization meets *all* of the criteria below, contact Jen to be added to the multi-year funding invitation list.

Organizational Governance & Leadership Criteria

1. Minimum of five non-staff members on the board of directors, with members holding a minimum of the following offices: President/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary/Clerk. The majority of members should be independent and unrelated. Staff members who serve on the board should be considered ex officio members without official voting status and should not hold a board office.
2. No direct conflict of interest between the President of the Board of Directors and the manager of daily operations (whether paid or unpaid). For example, the Board President cannot also serve as the Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, or lead the organization's daily operations.
3. Demonstrate qualified leadership by sharing background information on organization directors/trustees and executive staff (whether paid or unpaid).
4. Written and regularly reviewed succession and strategic plans.
5. Must be registered in the United States of America as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The organization must operate as a public charity, not a private foundation.

Fiscal Management Criteria

1. Ability to submit detailed, professional, clear, and accurate financial reports, including an annual budget with revenue/expenses and actual prior year revenue/expenses in U.S. dollars that demonstrate fiscal responsibility and diverse funding streams. We expect full transparency in financials, including grant/foundation, bequest, reserve/emergency, in-kind/non-cash contributions, and endowment information.
2. Must maintain multiple other grant/foundation funders other than the Ahimsa Foundation. These are foundations/grants that you make an application to in order to receive funding. The Ahimsa Foundation wants to ensure that other funders review your organization's financial and operational materials and find it worthy of funding.
3. A minimum of five years of successful grant funding through the Ahimsa Foundation.
4. Must submit, by the requested due dates, annual Grant Impact Reports for prior Ahimsa Foundation funding. Failure to do so will render the organization ineligible for its next applicable grant round.

Animal Impact Criteria

1. Demonstrate safe and appropriate animal care practices (nutrition, housing/exercise, medical care, sterilization/birth control, euthanasia, safety measures, adoption/sanctuary) AND a significant* impact on the animal population they are serving (*to be determined by Ahimsa Foundation trustees).
2. Willingness to mentor smaller organizations funded by the Ahimsa Foundation that are looking to refine and expand their comparable services.