

**OHIO PET FUND POLICY
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

I. Eligibility Criteria for sterilization and educational program grants:

1. An animal shelter as defined in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code
 - a) Facility operated by a humane society
 - b) Any society organized under Chapter 1717 of the Revised Code
 - c) Dog pound operated pursuant to Chapter 955 of the Revised Code
2. A local nonprofit Ohio veterinary association that operates a sterilization program
3. Charitable organizations qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a purpose of which is to support programs for the sterilization of dogs and cats and education programs concerning the proper veterinary care of dogs and cats.

*Applications will be accepted from above organizations that provide services in Ohio or provide services to Ohio residents.

II. Eligibility Criteria for those served by Ohio Pet Fund grants:

1. Funds may be used for sterilization of dogs and cats awaiting adoption from a nonprofit organization or animal shelter.
2. Funds may be used for sterilization of cats in a trap/neuter/release program that will be adopted or returned to managed colonies.
3. Funds may be granted for educational programs approved by the Ohio Pet Fund, with preference to animal shelters or nonprofit organizations supporting sterilization programs and involved in the training of veterinary students, and/or veterinarians to care for dogs and cats safely and efficiently during pre-surgical, surgical, and post-surgical periods.
4. Funds may be used for dogs and cats whose owners meet the criteria in section III.

III. Eligibility Criteria for individuals who seek sterilization for their dogs and cats:

The owner of a dog or cat is eligible for dog or cat sterilization services from an eligible organization when those services are subsidized in whole or in part by money from the pets program funding board if any of the following applies:

- (a) The income of the owner's family does not exceed one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty guideline.
- (b) The owner, or any member of the owner's family who resides with the owner, is a recipient or beneficiary of one of the following government assistance programs:
 - (i) Low-income housing assistance under the "United States Housing Act of 1937," 42 U.S.C.A. 1437f, as amended, known as the federal section 8 housing program;
 - (ii) The Ohio works first program established by Chapter 5107. of the Revised Code;
 - (iii) Title XIX of the "Social Security Act," 49 Stat. 620 (1935), 42 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, known as the medical assistance program or medicaid, provided by the department of job and family services under Chapter 5111. of the Revised Code;
 - (iv) A program or law administered by the United States department of veterans' affairs or veterans' administration for any service-connected disability;

(v) The supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, administered by the department of job and family services under section 5101.54 of the Revised Code;

(vi) The "special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children" established under the "Child Nutrition Act of 1966," 80 Stat. 885, 42 U.S.C. 1786, as amended, administered by the department of health under section 3701.132 of the Revised Code;

(vii) Supplemental security income under Title XVI of the "Social Security Act," 86 Stat. 1475 (1972), 42 U.S.C.A. 1383, as amended;

(viii) Social security disability insurance benefits provided under Title II of the "Social Security Act," 49 Stat. 620 (1935), 42 U.S.C.A. 401, as amended.

(c) The owner of the dog or cat submits to the eligible organization operating the sterilization program either of the following:

(i) A certificate of adoption showing that the dog or cat was adopted from a licensed animal shelter, a municipal, county, or regional pound, or a holding and impoundment facility that contracts with a municipal corporation;

(ii) A certificate of adoption showing that the dog or cat was adopted through a nonprofit corporation operating an animal adoption referral service whose holding facility, if any, is licensed in accordance with state law or a municipal ordinance.

The owner must present one of the following pieces of documentary evidence in the name of the owner or any member of the owner's family who resides with the owner:

1. Section 8 housing voucher
2. Schedule letter from Ohio Works First
3. Ohio Medicaid card
4. Letter from Veteran Benefits Administration acknowledging service-related disability
5. Ohio Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card, also called the Direction Card, for supplemental nutrition assistance program, SNAP (previously referred to as "food stamps")
6. WIC card (Women Infants and Children nutrition program)
7. Benefit letter documenting Supplemental Security Income
8. Benefit letter documenting assistance from Social Security Disability
9. Certificate of adoption showing that the animal was adopted from a licensed animal shelter or pound.
10. Certificate of adoption showing that the animal was adopted from a nonprofit corporation.
11. Tax return showing owner's family income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guideline.*
12. Evidence that the owner or pet otherwise qualify via Sec. 955.201(C)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code.

"Federal poverty guideline" means the official poverty guideline as revised annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.