BEFORE YOU APPLY:

GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Hi there,

Thank you for your interest in funding from the Edgard & Cooper Foundation.

Before starting your grant application, please take a moment to read the information below. It will help you assess whether your project is a good fit and support you in submitting a strong, relevant application.

Submitting an application takes time. These guidelines are here to help you use that time well.

Paws,

The Edgard & Cooper Foundation.

Our mission and work

The Edgard & Cooper Foundation exists to end the suffering of dogs and cats.

Our mission is to improve the lives of dogs and cats today and avoid harm tomorrow. And in order to realise this mission, we fund projects that align with one or more of our three goals:

GOAL	EXAMPLES OF WORK FUNDED
Stop the avoidable suffering of dogs and cats	DPM, rabies, vet care, infrastructure
Help people understand what dogs and cats need	Education, capacity building
Champion the legal rights of dogs and cats	Advocacy, law reform

We are interested in projects that meet the following requirements

- Support dogs and cats (no other species are funded)
- Are led by organisations with registered non-profit status or equivalent
- Align with our goals
- Have clear goals, KPIs, budget and timeline
- Use science-based, ethical protocols
- Focus on long-term impact creation
- Do locally relevant work that responds to the needs and context of the local communities and animals served
- Work outside of Western Europe

We do not fund

- Requests for unrestricted funding
- Requests for grants over €200,000
- Individuals or for-profit entities
- One-off rescue cases, feeding or overseas rehoming
- Projects that cause harm, unnecessary suffering, or unethical practices
- Activities that are primarily commercial, religious, or political in nature

Applications that fall outside our scope will be screened out early in the process so that applicants can receive clarity as quickly as possible.

Before you start your application

Please make sure you can:

- Communicate in an open, honest way
- Clearly explain what you want to do, why it matters, and how it will be delivered
- Describe how your activities lead to outcomes and impact

- Provide a realistic budget linked to specific activities
- Define KPIs and explain how data will be collected and reported
- Deliver and report on the proposed work responsibly
- Share reporting updates, photos/videos, and financial information, among others, if funded

As such, we recommend preparing the following in advance:

- A clear Theory of Change
- A detailed activity-based budget
- Defined KPIs and data collection methods
- A realistic timeline with milestones
- Relevant policies or financial documents (if applicable)

If you are unsure about any of the above, we recommend taking time to refine your project design before applying or waiting for the next application round.

Application deadlines and timings

Our current grant application round is open until **April 3rd, 2026**.

Our grant applications run more than once per year.

The current application round is intended for projects that:

- Can answer all the required questions in the application form clearly and in full
- Can provide a defined project plan
- Will start their work in 2026 and not in 2027.

If you do not yet have clear answers to our grant application questions, are still developing your project, or your project is taking place in 2027, we strongly recommend you wait for the next application round (happening around July-August with grant approvals taking place in October 2026).

How to approach the application questions

The application is designed to help us understand:

- **Strategic fit** Does the project align with our goals?
- **Quality** Is the project well thought through and feasible?
- **Impact** Will it meaningfully improve the lives of dogs and cats?
- **Risk & responsibility** Are animals, people, and funds handled safely and ethically?

What's the difference between "organisation", "project" and "application"?

To avoid confusion, we use the following terms throughout the application:

- **Organisation** This is the charity, non-profit, or group applying for funding (your organisation).
- **Project** This is the specific set of activities you are requesting funding for. A project has a clear purpose, location, timeline, budget, and expected outcomes, and is conducted by your organisation. It may be part of your wider organisational work, but the application should focus only on the project we would fund.
- **Application** This is the process of applying for a grant through our online form.

When answering questions, please focus on the **project** unless we specifically ask about your organisation.

What's the difference between "preventative", "proactive" and "reactive"?

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
Preventative	Actions that stop harm before it happens by addressing root causes and reducing the likelihood of future harm	Systems & policy work, education and behavior change, etc.
Proactive	Actions that build long-term systems or capacity, and preparedness to respond effectively to current and future animal welfare needs	TNVR and rabies work, infrastructure, etc.
Reactive	Actions that respond to immediate harm	Emergency care, disaster relief, etc.

We understand that there are edge cases, and projects normally combine these approaches. That's okay, as these are complementary lenses. We ask that you please classify your activities according to what best matches them and briefly explain the rationale behind.

What do we mean by KPIs

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are the way we track whether a project is progressing as planned and whether it's on track to achieve its intended results. KPIs can measure outputs, outcomes, or impact, depending on the nature of the project. They help answer questions like:

- Are activities being delivered as intended?
- Are we reaching the animals or people we aimed to reach?
- Are we seeing changes or improvements as a result of the work?

We **strongly recommend** reviewing the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM)'s guide "Are we making a difference?". Their guide provides clear, practical examples of meaningful indicators commonly used in dog and cat population management, rabies control, education, and related animal welfare work.

What to expect in the application

The form is structured in five main sections. Each section focuses on a different aspect of your organisation and project. The sections are:

1. Introduce yourself and your organisation
2. Introduce your project
3. Details of your project
4. Activity-specific questions
5. Details of your organisation

When answering questions

- Be clear, specific and concrete. Most questions on the application have a 400-600 character limit.

- Focus on what is most relevant, not everything you do
- Answer questions in a SMART way
  - **Specific** What exactly will you do?
  - **Measurable** How will progress or success be measured?
  - **Achievable** Is this realistic with the time and resources available?
  - **Relevant** Why does this matter for dogs and cats?
  - **Time-bound** When will this happen?
- If something is still being developed, say so honestly
- If a question is mandatory but does not apply to you, state that as a response and explain why

We value clarity and transparency over polished language or technical jargon.

Answering activity-specific questions

In section 4 of the form, you will only be asked to select which types of activities your project includes. The available options, along with a brief definition of each, are:

ACTIVITY	DEFINITION
TNVR/population management	Trap-neuter-vaccinate-return, or similar approaches, aimed and stabilising and reducing dog or cat populations humanely
Rabies prevention/elimination	Activities aimed at preventing, controlling, or eliminating rabies, including mass dog vaccination campaigns or surveillance
Basic veterinary care/emergency care	Vet care: Preventative or routine veterinary services such as vaccinations, parasite treatment, wound care and basic medical treatments Emergency care: urgent, life-saving treatment for injured or critically-ill animals
Education and community engagement	Activities aimed at improving knowledge, attitudes, or behaviours related to dog and cat welfare
Veterinary capacity building	Training, mentoring, or system-strengthening activities that improve long-term veterinary skills and services
Purchase of equipment/infrastructure/vehicles	Activities related to the purchase, construction, or improvement of physical assets that are necessary to deliver animal welfare work
Advocacy/legal protection	Work aimed at strengthening laws, policies, enforcement, or systems that protect dogs and cats

Based on the activities you select "yes" to, the form will display additional, detailed questions.

Please note:

- You should select a **minimum of one** and a **maximum of three** activity types
- Focus on the activities that represent the core of your project, not every supporting or minor action
- You will not be asked to answer questions for activities you do not select

Funding amounts and budgets

- The maximum grant amount is €200,000
- Budgets must be provided in euros (€), and we recommend attaching your budget as an Excel file/Google sheet document
- Every major activity should have a corresponding budget line. For instance, if your project works on rabies elimination and community education, clearly state how much of the funding would go to each activity and break down into specific expenses, such as purchase of vials, purchase of syringes, etc.
  - Please also break down your budget into how much funding is going to preventative, proactive and reactive work.

Submitting a budget does not mean the full amount requested will be awarded.

We strongly recommend you diversify your income sources and not rely on our grant to fully fund your project.

What happens after you apply

1. **Eligibility and scope screening** We review applications to ensure they align with our scope and basic requirements.
2. **Assessment and shortlisting** Eligible applications are assessed against our evaluation criteria. Not all eligible applications will be shortlisted.
3. **Further information / due diligence (if shortlisted)** Shortlisted applicants may be asked for additional documents or clarifications. If a grant request is too big or complex, we will schedule a 30-minute call.
4. **Final decision** Funding decisions are made by our Board in mid-June 2026. We will communicate these by the end of June.

Please note:

- We receive more applications than we can fund
- Applying does **not** guarantee funding
- Where possible, we aim to inform applicants of outcomes, but we may not be able to provide individual feedback on all applications.

If you have any additional questions, please email us at **hello@edgardcooperfoundation.org**

If you've read the full guide and feel ready to complete the application in full, we welcome you to apply here.