

Help a Buddy Fund Grant Application Eligibility

Application Deadline:

Applications will open on March 1, 2026 with a closing date of **March 31, 2026**.

2026 Fund Announcement Date: Before or on April 30, 2026

Please ensure your application is complete before submission. Incomplete applications, including missing attachments, will not be considered for the funding.

Eligibility Checklist

Help a Buddy Fund Grant Requirements
<p>Good Standing: The animal welfare group can demonstrate a positive relationship within the community and does not have any media publications, or verified social media and/or online reviews regarding a history of animal abuse or neglect. The welfare group also does not have any history of investigations of animal cruelty by Animal Care Control (ACCC) or the Alberta SPCA.</p>
<p>Proof of Federal Registered Charity Status: Proof of registration (including charitable registration number) as a charitable organization whose primary objectives are animal rescue/pet adoption.</p>
<p>Copy of Most Recent Financial Statements: We require financial statements that have been produced within 6 months of the grant application deadline. If you are applying for our Bella Bucks program, these statements should highlight any recent veterinary emergency surgery costs, either paid or outstanding that you are requesting the funds to cover. In the case of a pending emergency surgery, a quote from the veterinary clinic on the estimated surgery costs must be provided.</p>
<p>Proof of Long-Term Animal Care: To receive our grant funding, a copy of paperwork for a minimum of one animal in long-term care (one year or more) that will benefit from the grant must be provided, which includes <u>one or more</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Date of surrender<input type="checkbox"/> First date of veterinary care covered by the animal welfare group<input type="checkbox"/> First date of pet licensing issued under the animal welfare group<input type="checkbox"/> In the case of sanctuaries, a legal document that indicates animals are not being placed for adoption if they have been in care for less than one year <p>Help a Buddy Fund will only distribute funds to animal welfare groups that have a minimum of one animal in care for more than a year at the time of application, or animals placed in long-term care programs in the case of permanent sanctuary.</p> <p>*For our General Grant, animals in long-term care <u>must benefit directly</u> from the grant funding provided. Animals kept in care for less than one year, or who are not permanent sanctuary animals, will not be considered.</p> <p>*For our Bella Bucks Grant, animals in long-term care <u>may benefit indirectly</u> from the grant funding provided, with the understanding that covering the expense of an emergency veterinary service will allow for other funds currently managed by the animal welfare group to be allocated to those animals kept in care for a year or longer. You must still provide proof of at least one long-term animal in care along with all other documentation related to the animal which will benefit from Bella Bucks.</p>

Application Guidelines

Who can Apply?

Animal rescue groups who meet the following criteria may apply for one of our grants offered:

- The organization must operate within Alberta.
- Non-profit organizations registered as a federal charity whose primary purpose involves pet rescue, pet adoption and/or humane animal care. The Help a Buddy Fund grants are not available to individuals or for-profit businesses.
- Animal welfare groups who have a minimum of one animal in care for more than a year at the time of application.
- Applicants may apply for **only one** of our two granting streams.
- Applicants who have received grant funding in the previous year from the current application year will not be considered in order to give equal opportunity to other animal welfare groups.

Eligible Projects

General Grant Stream

Funding Amount: \$2,900.00

This grant application serves to help with animal rescue efforts in Alberta, alleviating financial stressors including the following:

- Pet supplies including food, bedding, and materials required for animal-human interaction
- Routine veterinary care (annual check ups, dental, and microchipping)
- Spay/neuter surgery
- Anticipated veterinary appointments where the animal's condition is known for 30 days or more prior to treatment and where the veterinary treatment could be delayed by more than 30 days without causing harm to the animal.
- Grooming costs
- Any other funding that can be considered routine animal care, where financial hardship has affected the caregiver's ability to meet expectations

This grant **cannot** be used for the following:

- Operational and administrative costs
- Infrastructure and shelter design, build, or upkeep
- Any other financial resources where the primary focus of the funding is not serving to directly impact an animal in long-term care

Bella Bucks Grant Stream

Funding Amount: up to \$2,225.00

**if the full amount is not requested by the awarded animal welfare group, any extra funding will be carried over for our small emergency donation program, overseen by our Bella Bucks grant.*

This grant application serves to help with animal welfare groups in need of funding for emergency veterinary procedures for foster animals in their care. An **emergency procedure or surgery** is defined as an unforeseen veterinary treatment of an animal that has been taken into care by the animal welfare group and where the veterinary treatment could not be delayed by more than 30 days without causing harm to the animal. It is intended for reimbursing the cost of emergency procedures already performed, or providing funds for those pending within 30 days of the application.

This grant **cannot** be used to support veterinary treatments where the animal's condition is/was known for 30 days or more prior to treatment and where the treatment could be delayed by more than 30 days without causing harm to the animal. For these situations, please refer to the **General Grant Stream**.

Funding Limits

Only one recipient will receive the funds available under the grant for which they apply.

2026 General Grant Fund Distribution: \$2,900.00

2026 Bella Bucks Grant Fund Distribution: up to \$2,225.00

Application Approval Process

Applications are reviewed by our Board of Directors and placed for voting at our Annual General Meeting in April of every year. Applicants who do not qualify for our grant will be notified via electronic mail. The selected recipient of the grant funds will be contacted via electronic mail and/or phone to announce the funds awarded following the AGM. Funds will be distributed to the recipient within 5 business days following the announcement. Help a Buddy Fund will arrange a meeting for a later date to meet and greet with representatives of the rescue and animals in their care. This is an opportunity to network and meet the animals that will be benefiting from the grant.

Final Reporting

All animal welfare groups that have been approved for a Help a Buddy Fund grant are expected to participate in one of the following options:

1. A face-to-face meeting with the Help a Buddy Fund Board of Directors in which they may meet and report on one of the animals who has benefited from the grant
2. Submitting a Final Report and Final Expenditure Summary on the use of the Help a Buddy Fund grant funds by December 31st of each calendar year. This will be a short summary indicating how the funds were used to benefit one or more animals in their care. Reporting can be done through electronic mail.

The animal welfare group must grant Help a Buddy Fund permission to highlight the use of funds on social media and e-newsletter that is distributed to their volunteers and donors.