



Attorneys for Animals Guidelines for Grant Application

Dear Potential Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in considering a project, litigation, or education effort that will benefit animals and advance their cause and status. Attorneys for Animals (“AfA”) is a small Michigan-based group that uses the skills and backgrounds of its members to help animals through involvement in legal and legislative issues as well as education and communication. More information about AfA can be found at: www.attorneysforanimals.org. One of our major accomplishments is creating the basis for establishing the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, one of the first animal-related bar sections in the United States.

If you decide to seek funding from our group, you will need to submit a grant application and submit it to our Grants Committee. We are a non-profit organization and will carefully consider all grant applications based on criteria discussed below.

We have funded the following grants:

- Produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) video for television broadcasting highlighting the need to be aware of potential animal cruelty by young people and stop or report it.
- Funding for legal research to update the Michigan Animal Law Handbook was granted in 2004.
- Funding to support cruelty investigator advanced training was approved for a central Michigan humane society.
- Litigation-related expenses (not attorney fees) have been awarded most recently for a case involving the death of a companion animal.

This letter discusses the following regarding AfA grants:

- 1. General Funding Criteria**
- 2. Specific Requirements for Grants**
- 3. Examples of Projects to be Considered for Funding**
- 4. Examples of Projects That Will Not Be Funded**
- 5. Guidelines for Completing the Grant Application**

1. General Funding Criteria

The Grants Committee generally considers the following factors in making a decision regarding the issuing of a grant.

1. Does the proposed action benefit more than one animal? How many animals will the project help? Our concern here is scope and impact of the action. We



Attorneys for Animals Guidelines for Grant Application

would consider financial support for an action that would benefit only one animal if the result will be major, precedent setting, or will provide meaningful citizen education.

2. Does the action involve legal issues, legal action, or the legal or legislative system?
3. Does the applicant have the experience and commitment to see the project through to completion? Will the project benefit the individual or organization as well as animals?
4. If a legal case, what is the likelihood of the applicant prevailing? This does not preclude a grant for a “losing” case if it will advance the law.
5. What other funding is committed to the project? Is the applicant willing to share in the costs of the project?
6. Is the project primarily related to animals in Michigan? We consider projects that have an impact outside Michigan although we prefer their focus to be Michigan. For instance, the PSA mentioned above has been shown outside Michigan.

2. Specific Requirements for Grants

1. Does the project support our mission as well as the applicant organization's (if an organization) mission?
2. We generally only make grants to attorneys, law students, 501(c)3 organizations, or educational institutions.
3. Projects need to be related to the legal system or legal issues.
4. Grant limit of \$1,500. Our average grant has been about \$1,000.
5. Whether or not a grant is made, applicant must not use or disclose AfA's name or logo without prior written permission from the President of AfA.
6. The decision to make a grant, or refuse a grant request, is in the sole discretion of the AfA Board of Directors.

3. Examples of Projects to be Considered for Funding

These examples are provided only for general guidance. We are willing to consider any applications that meet the general guidelines above as well as not being excluded by the criteria below of Projects That Will Not Be Funded. The list below is not to be considered exclusive.

1. Costs related to litigation expenses and filing fees for cases involving non-economic damages in the death of a companion animal.
2. Projects related to legal issues or the legal system such as legal research.
3. Cruelty investigator training or specialized training for other humane society personnel.
4. Costs or fees to assist animal-related case.



Attorneys for Animals Guidelines for Grant Application

5. A modest stipend or scholarship for a student to attend a conference or seminar provided the student is an active participant or speaker at the conference or seminar.

4. Examples of Projects That Will Not Be Funded

1. Lobbying expenses.
2. Disputes between animal organizations and activists.
3. Attorney's fees.
4. Projects not related to legal issues
5. Disputes between breeders and buyers of animals.

5. Guidelines for Completing the Grant Application

1. Provide complete and detailed information so that the Grants Committee can make a fully informed decision.
2. Provide all supporting material to allow a full evaluation of the application.
3. If you believe that your project involves a novel approach to the law, please provide a brief analysis of this approach including the current state of the law, the reason for the approach, and likely outcome of the litigation.
4. Be prepared to discuss the grant in a teleconference call at a mutually agreed time between you and the committee members.
5. We prefer that the grant application be completed in MS Word and emailed to AfA. Supporting documentation should be scanned and sent with the email or mailed separately in hard copy format.
6. We will require some documentation or evidence that the proposed project, litigation, or education effort was completed if a grant is approved.
7. We will expect a brief report or summary of the project once completed. We may use a description of the grant project as part of our website and grant process guidelines in the future.

Thank you for your work for animals.

Sincerely,

Attorneys for Animals