



31 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

## **DOGS TRUST CANINE WELFARE GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

Dogs Trust is committed to canine welfare and has a long history of supporting canine research. In the 2020 grants rounds, we approved over £490,000 to research projects and have in excess of 20 active projects. To maintain momentum in canine research, we are again committing financial support to a number of key areas we have identified as being important priorities described below.

We have 2 funding models:

1. Our **standard application model**, which welcomes applications from individual institutions and also across interdisciplinary groups.
2. A **collaborative grants programme** to encourage wider collaboration with the Dogs Trust internal research team.

### **Key areas for the standard and larger fund applications include:**

- 1) The genetic basis of disease or reduced welfare in dogs. In particular, Dogs Trust will prioritise applications that offer a “solutions-based” approach to conditions or welfare issues, including those associated with conformation underpinned by a genetic component.
- 2) Healthy Ageing in Dogs\*: This is linked to other areas that Dogs Trust has identified as priorities but may include the biology of healthy ageing and how an understanding of healthy ageing may influence improvements in canine welfare.
- 3) Epidemiology of Disease: Dogs Trust recognizes the importance of data to underpin research into canine health and is looking for applications that will help to address the current dearth of information available, including those that use big data sets.
- 4) The Welfare of Dogs suffering from chronic disease\*: Dogs Trust will accept applications that cover the spectrum of chronic diseases in dogs and can include applications that help us understand the biology of important canine diseases and ways in which outcomes and quality of life can be improved.

\*Dogs Trust recognizes the importance of obesity in these areas and welcomes applications that focus on this important discipline.

For collaborative grants, the priority areas for funding include:

- 1) Studies which complement and/or enhance generation of evidence to inform improvements in canine welfare from existing Dogs Trust internal research project datasets e.g. Gen Pup, Choosing My Dog, UK Pet Dog Population, The impact of Covid-19 on dog welfare programme, Post Adoption Welfare Study – see <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/research/research-library> for further information.
- 2) Development of tools to mine large datasets which can inform canine welfare and develop understanding of drivers of welfare

### **Dogs Trust**

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & SC037843

Applicants for collaborative grants **must** contact the Dogs Trust research team in the first instance to discuss their application ([research@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:research@dogstrust.org.uk)), and one or more relevant members of the Dogs Trust research team must be listed within the project application.

Awards for all grants will be made at four specific levels:

- 1) **Pump-priming awards:** up to £20,000 for researchers to gain preliminary data in a relevant area
- 2) **Dogs Trust Postgraduate Student Award:** This award to the value of £100,000 will be specifically to support either a Masters (by research) or PhD project in a relevant area
- 3) **Experienced Investigator Awards:** These awards up to the value of £200,000 will normally be for 2-3 years

**Projects must not require a Home Office licence or involve any invasive procedures.**

**For larger scale studies Dogs Trust reserves the right to set stringent review parameters for key milestones throughout the project.**

**[A preliminary application form must be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.](#)**

Those applications which pass initial screening will be invited to submit a full project proposal. We anticipate these will be required by **30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021**.

Please find attached a preliminary application form, Guidance Notes, and Terms and Conditions. This will be available on our website to download here: <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/research/funding-research>

If you have any further questions regarding Welfare Grants, please do not hesitate to contact me on [cwg@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:cwg@dogstrust.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



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