



Frequently Asked Questions for Champions Fund (Europe) Programme 2023

Who can apply for a grant?

Applications to the Champions Fund are welcomed from registered, not for profit organisations Profit (eg Non-Government Organisation or Charity or Community Based Organisation) who wish to improve dog, or dog and cat welfare. The organisation must be legally registered to operate in the country where it proposes to use the grant funds. Proof of local current registration (and date) will be required to be submitted alongside the application.

The organisation must have an organisational bank account into which funds can be paid (we will not transfer funds into personal/individual bank accounts). There should be at least 2 signatories to the organisational bank account.

Organisations must have been operational for at least 3 years

Where in the world does my project need to be, to be eligible?

Applications are welcomed from those European countries listed below. Please note that countries that are or become subject to EU/UK/International Sanctions will not be eligible to apply.

Albania	Germany	North Macedonia
Andorra	Greece	Norway
Armenia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Azerbaijan	Italy	Romania
Belgium	Kazakhstan	San Marino
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Serbia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Slovakia
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lithuania	Spain
Czechia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malta	Switzerland
Estonia	Moldova	Turkey
Finland	Monaco	Ukraine

France	Montenegro	Vatican City (Holy See)
Georgia	Netherlands	

How much can I apply for?

The maximum grant that can be awarded through our Champions Fund is £10,000

What type of projects do you fund?

In 2023 we are accepting applications that are directed towards improving local rehoming practices. These could include requests for funds to make material improvements to existing rehoming centre/shelter infrastructure, equipment to improve the running of shelters/rehoming centres or to provide enrichment opportunities for the dogs in the rehoming centre/shelter. Applications aimed at improving local fostering/adoption programmes are welcomed.

What will you not fund?

The following are not eligible for funding through the Champions fund:

- Construction of a new rehoming centre or shelter
- The purchase of land
- Ongoing salaries.
- General equipment – laptops etc, not directly related to animal welfare work
- Utility bills/vet bills/petfood
- Consumables
- Activities directly connected to international rehoming

Dogs Trust Worldwide does not fund international rehoming, so we will not fund improvements to overseas adoption programmes or fostering programmes which could result in a dog being rehomed overseas. Whilst we understand the instinctive desire to rehome dogs internationally, we have concerns for the impact it might have on dog welfare in general. Not only is there the risk of disease being moved from one country to another, but, if a dog is used to free roaming, it may be unable to cope with a domestic home environment. In addition, rehoming dogs outside the country of origin will not solve the wider dog population and welfare issues there. To be effective it is better to focus on activities within the country itself, which can include improving local adoption rates.

Dogs Trust Worldwide will not fund organisations who euthanase healthy dogs (defined by the World Health Organisation ([WHO](#)) and the World Organisation for Animal health ([WOAH, formerly OIE](#)) as a 'state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. We base the welfare of animals around the five welfare needs and prioritise quality of life above all.

Dogs Trust supports organisations who have developed their own clear policy and guidance around euthanasia ([ICAM guidance](#) may help you if you do not already have).

How Do I Apply?

The Application form is available to download on our website <https://www.dogstrustworldwide.com/champions-fund/champions-fund-europe/>. Only applications typed on our form and submitted by email will be accepted. Please complete all the relevant parts as thoroughly as possible.

Completed forms should be emailed to: international@dogstrustworldwide.com

We aim to provide an email acknowledging receipt of your application within 3 working days. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please email us and ask.

We may have further questions to ask of applicants following receipt of their application.

The application form is in English but can be submitted in any European language, however applicants must be able to facilitate conversations or email exchange in English as part of the due diligence process.

In addition to the application form, and current registration proof, some basic financial information will be required: the most recent audited accounts (Statement of Financial Activity, Balance Sheet, current bank balance) if available.

When can I apply and when will I hear?

In 2023 we have one grant round, open to receive applications from 1st June to 3rd July 2023.

We aim to let all applicants know the outcome within 6 weeks after the application deadline, we are unable to speed up this decision-making process for individual applications. This is to make sure that we carry out any necessary due diligence and treat all applicants fairly. Please be aware of this when you are considering applying.

Due to the high volume of applications expected and the competitive nature of the process we are sadly not able to provide feedback and advice to unsuccessful applicants.

What happens next if my application is successful?

If an application is accepted, we will draft terms and conditions to be signed by both parties. Funds can be made available within one month of the application being approved, assuming the terms and conditions are agreed.

The required reporting will be detailed as part of the terms and conditions. Successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report, including case studies and photos of how the funding has helped the organisation progress.

How likely am I to be successful with my application?

We receive very many requests for financial support and are sadly unable to provide grants to everyone who applies, even if the project is a good one! The successful applicants are chosen in a competitive process, with the number of grants approved depending also on the finances available for the Champions Programme.

Can I apply again next year if I receive a grant this year?

Organisations are eligible to apply again next year but not for the continuation of same project.