

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



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EVEN BETTER CARE FOR OUR COMPANION ANIMALS

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting more Victorian pet owners to have better access to veterinary and rehoming services across the state.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas today announced that applications are open for the latest round of the *Animal Welfare Fund (AWF) Grants Program* which will support animal shelters, foster carers and not-for-profit and community vet clinics to expand their services and help even more companion animals.

More than \$1.5 million is available to eligible organisations under Round 10 of the *AWF Grants Program* for veterinary clinic and rehoming pet grants. This includes:

- Up to \$100,000 for shelters and not-for-profit organisations to purchase equipment or to upgrade and expand their services
- Up to \$200,000 to establish new, low-cost vet clinics
- Support for veterinary equipment, upgrades and expansions at not-for-profit and community vet clinics.

Eligible organisations can submit applications to purchase equipment and to upgrade or expand their facility.

The *Animal Welfare Fund (AWF) Grants Program* improves companion animal welfare and recognises the significant role pets play in the lives of Victorians.

Since the program was launched, 169 grants have been awarded to not-for-profit and community organisations that improve the welfare of animals, totalling almost \$4.2 million.

Applications for Round 10 of the *AWF Grants Program* are open until Friday, 24 December. For more information and to apply visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"Pets are an important part of the lives of many Victorians – that's why we are providing more grants to support our beloved companion animals and ensure they get the care they deserve."

"These grants recognise the significant role that not-for-profit and community animal welfare organisations play in improving the lives of our much-loved pets."

Quotes attributable to former grant recipient Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) General Manager Megan Secull

"The grant money we received has meant we have been able to purchase new veterinary equipment, enabling us improve the level of care we can offer to those animals in need."

"We feel so fortunate to also be able to build some high quality animal enclosures for our rabbits and guinea pigs making their transient stay with us pleasant and less stressful."

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