CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS 2024

International Perspectives on the Human-Animal Bond to enhance animal welfare.

Battersea's Global Programmes' vision is to secure a professional, ethical, sustainable, and interconnected approach to rescue, rehoming and management of dog and cat populations, underpinned by appropriate legislation and responsible pet ownership.

We are inviting proposals that delve into the nuanced nature of human-animal interactions and their implications for animal welfare with a particular emphasis on our focus countries UK, Greece, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

We welcome proposals that focus on:

- investigating the health outcomes of dog and cat ownership in countries, communities and cultures that are currently underrepresented in existing literature.

- Exploring behavioural insights regarding the role of pets in supporting the health and well-being of people from underrepresented/minoritised populations.

- Cultural and socio-economic factors which influence the human-animal bond.

- The role of the human-animal bond in veterinary medicine, including its impact on access to care, compliance and quality of care.

- Qualitative and quantitative research to understand attitudes, motivations, and barriers to sterilisations and access to vet care.

We will also consider exceptional research projects on dog and cat welfare issues that do not fall within this call or Battersea's priority countries (as defined in our **Country Programmes**), provided they meet robust scientific criteria and provide evidence of applicability.

All proposals should clearly articulate how the research findings will lead to applicable interventions for the improvement of animal welfare. We particularly encourage submissions from researchers from a range of diverse backgrounds.

The research should be appropriate for publishing in peer-reviewed journals. The successful applicants will also be expected to present their work at meetings organised by Battersea and other interested organisations.

Application process

Applicants are advised to submit a proposal outlining their proposed research by 12th May.

If selected, a Grants Manager will then be in touch to have a conversation with you to find out more about your organisation/institution and the research you are proposing. The application will be fully assessed by the Grants Manager, and they will inform you if the proposal will go forward to a review by our expert panel. Final outcomes will be communicated in the autumn. Should you not be successful at either stage, you will be provided with feedback.

Closing date	12th May
Outcomes	Autumn 2024

Further information

- There is no minimum or maximum grant amount you must target. The grant amount requested will vary based on your country and activities.
- Applicants can apply for up to 3 years of support, but you should outline how findings would be shared throughout that period. There is no minimum length of grant.
- Applicants (lead researcher/principal investigator) should hold a PhD or equivalent qualification and have a history of producing and publishing research in their chosen topic.
- The applicant should be based at a recognised organisation, think tank or academic institution (including universities).
- The applicant is expected to engage in wider Battersea activities such as sharing their research, for example, through webinars or blogs.
- We are seeking to support research where there is a clear benefit for the wider sector, not Battersea specifically.
- Approval from your institution's Ethics Committee or equivalent must be in place before the grant can be awarded.
- Battersea does not claim intellectual property rights of the research but would expect recognition of support in research products (such as reports, publications, presentations, etc). This helps others hear about Battersea's Research Programme.