



Learning Exchange Programme

The aim of this grants programmes is to advance change by encouraging collaboration and learning globally between rescues, government ministries/municipalities and/or other organisations that have a stake in dog and cat welfare. This programme is designed to encourage knowledge sharing and multi-directional learning, as we believe innovative approaches to companion animal welfare can originate from anywhere, including low-resource settings.

This programme aims to support diverse and dispersed people working within companion animal welfare to learn from one another and build connections and collaborations that we hope will continue beyond the exchange itself. We believe this learning opportunity will be effective because those participating will be informed by the lived experiences of the rescue, organisation, or government authority they spend time with.

This programme offers up to £4,000 towards one or two members of an organisation and/or ministry/municipality to spend a week at a host organisation/ministry/municipality anywhere in the world. This can also include spending time with a host in your home country. Grants are awarded based on applications demonstrating specific learning goals and ability to implement learning. Applicants can apply at any time of the year and the learning exchange must happen within 6 months from the date of the grant award. Applicants can expect a response within 4 weeks of applying. The grant can cover the costs of accommodation, flight, airport transfers / in-country travel, food, visas and required vaccinations. Battersea is unable to cover the costs related to changes or implementation of learning following the learning exchange.

We invite applications where the learning relates to one or more of the following areas:

- Increasing professionalism and sustainability of companion animal welfare organisations
- Raising companion animal welfare standards in a rescue setting
- Reducing rescue and street or roaming dog and/or cat populations
- Improving community engagement and education on responsible pet ownership
- Advancing companion animal welfare standards, laws, and regulations and/or their enforcement

Applicants must demonstrate the following in their applications:

- The applicant has identified suitable visiting opportunities and obtained mutual agreement with the host organisation/ ministry/ municipality they have identified.
- Clear plan of what/how they will learn from the host organisation/ ministry/ municipality, and how the host will benefit and how each organisation will utilise the new connection and learning to benefit dogs and cats.
- An articulation of how the learning gained contributes to the organisation/ ministry/ municipalities wider strategic objectives to improve the lives of dogs and/or cats.
- An explanation of how the visiting organisation/ ministry/ municipality will cover the costs related to changes or implementation of learning following the learning exchange.

Further information:

- Unfortunately, we cannot support your application where the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against all travel to the country you intend to visit (this includes in-country exchanges).
- Applicants (both host and visitor) are required to be registered on the Academy Learning Management System and at least one representative should have participated in a learning activity at the time of application.
- Successful applicants would also be expected to engage with Battersea on ways to share their learning more widely with the sector.
- We are unable to cover the costs of interpreters during the visit, so applicants applying are required to organise and agree this with the host.
- The receiving organisation/ministry/municipality must have appropriate liability insurance and health and safety policies in place.
- We believe good practice and impact is taking place all over the world, and not just in countries part of the 'Global North'. We encourage exchanges between those in the 'Global South'. Battersea is unable to host visitors under this programme because we already share our approach through our Academy courses.