PET TRUST COMPETITION

Frequently asked questions

1. **How many proposals can I submit as a PI in the same competition?**
   The same PI can submit up to 2 proposals in the same competition.

2. **How many proposals can I submit as a co-investigator in the same competition?**
   An investigator can submit as many proposals as he/she wants as a co-investigator in the same competition.

3. **Can I do research with collaborators external to the University of Guelph?**
   Research with external collaborators is encouraged as long as:
   - the specific role of each investigator is specified in the proposal
   - the PI (affiliated to the University of Guelph) will be the first author on publications generated by this research project

4. **Does the PI need to be part of the University of Guelph?**
   The PI needs to be affiliated with the University of Guelph. While the majority of applicants are faculty from the Ontario Veterinary College where the fund is administered, applications from faculty from other colleges may be considered if the research team includes a co-PI who is a tenured faculty member from OVC. External co-investigators can also be part of the research team. Contractually-limited faculty members must have a tenured faculty member as co-investigator.

5. **Should I break down the budget if the project includes several steps?**
   If the project includes several steps, the PI is encouraged to break down the budget. It gives flexibility to the Companion Animal Scientific Review Committee to choose to fund a specific part of the project instead of not funding the study at all.

6. **Can I add publication costs to the budget?**
   No, publication costs should not be part of the budget. Pet Trust will support publication costs of the project up to 2,000 CAD once the manuscript is accepted for publication.

7. **Can I add travel cost in the budget?**
   No, travel cost associated with presentation of results of research at scientific conferences is not supported by Pet Trust. However, travel costs to perform the research can be added in the budget (for example: travel cost to gather data from different geographical areas within Ontario).

8. **Does Pet Trust fund incentives?**
   Pet Trust funds incentives in specific situations. The following are examples of incentives:
   - Qualitative study: up to 50 CAD per participant
   - Clinical trial: test required for the research but not part of standard of care

9. **Does Pet Trust fund the purchase of computers?**
   Pet Trust doesn’t support the purchase of computers but may fund the purchase of special software if well justified.

10. **If I have not spent all the money of a research account, can I transfer it to another account?**
    The money allocated to one specific project can’t be allocated to another project. If not used, the funds should be returned to Pet Trust via the Associate Dean, Research and Innovation.

11. **Does Pet Trust fund technician salaries?**
    Pet Trust funds technician salaries if well justified and provided it is lower than 15% of the total budget requested.
12. Does Pet Trust accept matching funds for research projects?
   Yes, Pet Trust accepts sharing the cost of a research project with another foundation/donor provided a letter confirming the matching fund is submitted with the proposal.

13. When is the call for equipment proposals? Once or twice a year?
   The call for equipment proposal is in the fall of each year. Pet Trust can fund up to 15,000 to 20,000 CAD for equipment.

14. Can equipment costs be included in the budget of a research proposal?
   A request of a piece of equipment can be included in the budget of a research proposal provided the price is less than 5,000 CAD. A piece of equipment that costs more than 5,000 CAD, should be requested through an equipment proposal.

15. What are the most common reasons for a proposal not being funded?

   Poor relevance to Pet Trust Mandate
   Relatively not important to companion animals
   Not enough details in the Materials and Methods section
   No preliminary data to support proposal
   Poor productivity with previously funded projects
   Ethical concerns