



2026 Call for research projects

The Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) is the **British Veterinary Association's (BVA's) charity** and is run by veterinary and animal welfare professionals.

Funding scientific research to find practical solutions to animal welfare issues has been at the heart of AWF's work since our inception and we are committed to ensuring that animal welfare remains high on the agenda.

We are offering up to £80,000 to fund research projects that focus on animal welfare in any animal species. As AWF is BVA's charity, the work must be of relevance to veterinary and allied professionals in the UK.

Projects must begin in 2026 and should be of no more than 36 months' duration. They must be researcher-led, but the type of project is not restricted, provided that projects use robust methods to generate evidence with the potential to improve animal welfare. Proposals that are purely health-based, clinical or ethics-based will not be considered.

Project proposals may take into account relevant welfare consequences highlighted by [AWF Delphi project on priority welfare issues in the UK](#). For subjects of particular interest to the veterinary profession, please refer to [BVA's list of animal welfare priorities](#).

Projects that are able to deliver impact and have a strong knowledge exchange plan outlined will score highly, as generating discussion and debate around key animal welfare topics is at the core of AWF's work. We can also give you a platform and will expect you to share your research with the veterinary professions and the wider animal welfare community.

Projects must also be designed in accordance with good research practice to minimise sources of bias, and must focus on [animal welfare](#).



Logistics:

Project duration: Up to 36 months

Project start date: before the end of 2026

Grant amount: AWF will invest up to £80,000 in total and expect to fund one or more projects. AWF is willing to consider co-funding the project with a partner from which the principal investigator is responsible for securing the remainder of the funding.

Eligibility: The principal investigator should have a demonstrable research track record and be based in the UK. They should have previously published peer-reviewed research and must be employed at a UK establishment suitable for supporting research (e.g. a university) for the duration of the proposed project.

Use of funds: The type of project is not restricted, provided that it uses robust methods to generate evidence with the potential to improve animal welfare. Projects can be desk-based, quantitative or qualitative. Funds can be used as appropriate to cover research staff time or post-graduate student time on the project, equipment or consumables, travel or other costs stipulated by the applicants. As a charity, AWF cannot cover overhead costs.

If funding is sought to support a master's student, grants can only be used to support costs for the period students are working on the research project (i.e. funding can be used to support an MRes students, or the research part of the taught master's course, funding cannot be used to support the student during time spent studying for the non-research part)

Knowledge exchange: The proposed research should have the potential for publishing in a peer-reviewed journal with open access. The successful applicant(s) will also be expected to present their work at meetings organised by AWF and other interested organisations, as well as to contribute to any relevant promotional material published by AWF.

Application deadline: **Midnight Sunday 10th May 2026**

To apply, please visit: <https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/research/research-grants/>