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Announcing the Wysiwash Wellness Grant

A new grant helps animal shelters take on new measures to control the spread of disease, sponsored by Wysiwash and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

Wysiwash, a sanitizing system popular with animal care groups and businesses, announced the Wysiwash Wellness Grant. This new initiative helps animal shelters take a proactive stance in preventing disease. It gives two animal shelters \$1000 each to take on new initiatives to prevent the spread of illness within their animal population.

Preventing the spread of disease is a challenge for animal shelters and rescue organizations due to large numbers of animals living together. Wysiwash chose to focus on preventing the spread of disease because outbreaks can have devastating effects, including long closures of shelters and the euthanization of adoptable animals.

To ensure that the grant will foster projects that make a real impact at shelters, Wysiwash has partnered with the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV). “The ASV is leading the way when it comes to measures to increase the health of the whole shelter population,” said Wysiwash co-founder, Ken Hungerford. “We wanted to partner with them because they understand the challenges that come with having a lot of animals together and can evaluate whether proposals will have a substantial impact.”

“We are excited to work with Wysiwash on this grant opportunity for animal shelters,” said ASV president, Dr. Brian Di Gangi. “The Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ mission is to enhance and support the practice of shelter medicine—and what better way to do that than to stimulate a friendly competition with the goal of making operational improvements that will benefit shelter animals?”

Projects eligible for the grants include (but are not limited to): staff education on cross contamination and disease prevention, new vaccination procedures for incoming animals, installation of artificial turf or other construction projects designed to limit the spread of disease. The grant is open to 501(c) nonprofit and governmental animal shelters in the United States.

Both Wysiwash and the ASV want the project to increase awareness about shelter medicine and encourage dialogue about effective ways to prevent the spread of disease. “We are also proud to offer this grant to both ASV member and nonmember veterinarians and hope that this will enhance awareness of the field of shelter medicine as well as foster collaboration between different types of sheltering organizations,” added Dr. DiGangi.

For more information about the grants, visit www.wysiwash.com/grants.

About Wysiwash: Wysiwash was founded by Ken Hungerford and Duncan Dowling on the belief that Wysiwash's innovative disinfecting system could save the lives of humans and animals. Ken was acutely aware of the challenges that animal shelters faced from watching his mother work tirelessly with local animal groups to rescue thousands of dogs.

After using a prototype of Wysiwash in Ken's dog training facilities, Ken and Duncan saw how revolutionary this disinfectant system was both in terms of effectiveness and ease of use. The two partnered to buy the patent. Improving on the work of Dr. Brent Hoadley, Duncan and Ken developed the current Wysiwash system, which is now used by kennels, food processing facilities, schools and maintenance professionals throughout the world.

www.wysiwash.com

About the Association of Shelter Veterinarians: The mission of the ASV is to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being. Founded in 2001, the ASV is the professional organization for shelter veterinarians and is now comprised of nearly 1,000 members from around the globe including 28 student chapters. The ASV has spearheaded several nationwide task forces including the Shelter Standards Task Force and the Veterinary Task Force to Advance Spay Neuter.

<http://www.sheltervet.org/>