



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®
Until every pet has a home.

BISSELL Pet Foundation Organization Types and Definitions

Organization Type	Definition	Accepted into Partners for Pets?
501c3 Animal Rescue/Protection Organization	A nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals, typically with a focus on prevention of abuse or neglect.	Situational
501c3 Animal Sanctuary (Does Not Perform Adoptions)	A nonprofit organization that provides permanent, lifelong care to animals without placing them for adoption. Animals remain in sanctuary for their natural lifespan.	No
501c3 Animal Transport Organization	A nonprofit dedicated to transporting animals between locations to increase adoption opportunities in partner communities.	Situational
501c3 Brick & Mortar Sheltering Facility (Without Government Contract)	A nonprofit animal shelter with a physical facility that independently operates intake, care, and adoption services without contractual agreements with government agencies.	Yes
501c3 Brick & Mortar Sheltering Facility with Government Contract	A nonprofit animal shelter with a physical facility that operates under contract with a government entity to provide sheltering and/or adoption services.	Yes
501c3 Cat Trapping Organization (Without Brick & Mortar Facility)	A nonprofit that specializes in trap-neuter-return (TNR) and feral cat management, operating without a permanent physical shelter facility.	Yes
501c3 Community Resource Organization without Animals in Custody	A nonprofit that provides educational resources, training, support services, or advocacy for animal welfare causes without directly housing for animals.	Situational
501c3 Equine, Avian, or Pocket Pet Organization	A nonprofit organization specializing in rescue, sanctuary, or services for a specific animal species (horses, birds, small mammals) rather than general companion animals.	No
501c3 Pet Food Pantry	A nonprofit that distributes pet food and supplies to low-income pet owners to prevent animal surrender or neglect due to financial hardship.	No
501c3 Spay/Neuter Organization (Performs Surgeries with Brick & Mortar Facility)	A nonprofit that operates a physical surgical facility where veterinary staff perform spay and neuter procedures on animals.	Yes
501c3 Spay/Neuter Organization (Performs Surgeries without Brick & Mortar Facility i.e. MASH/Mobile)	A nonprofit that performs spay and neuter through mobile clinics, MASH units, or temporary surgical operations without a permanent facility.	Yes

BISSELL Pet Foundation Organization Types and Definitions

Organization Type	Definition	Accepted into Partners for Pets?
501c3 Spay/Neuter Support Organization (Does not Perform Surgeries)	A nonprofit that funds, coordinates, or facilitates spay/neuter programs but does not directly perform surgical procedures (e.g., providing vouchers or grants for services).	Situational
501c3 With Animals in Custody Without Brick & Mortar Facility (ex. Foster-Based Rescue)	A nonprofit that maintains custody of animals through a distributed network of foster homes or temporary caregivers rather than a centralized facility.	Yes
Educational Institution	A school, college, university, or training program.	No
Exotic Animal Organization or Zoo	A nonprofit or for-profit organization that maintains, cares for, and provides public education about exotic, wild, or non-domestic animal species, typically through zoological facilities, sanctuaries, or specialized rescue operations.	No
Foundation	A nonprofit organization that provides funding and resources to support animal welfare initiatives and organizations.	Situational
Individual	A sole proprietor or independent person working in animal welfare.	No
International Equivalent of US Nonprofit Shelter	A nonprofit animal shelter or rescue organization operating outside the United States with similar mission and operational model to a US 501(c)(3) shelter.	No
Livestock Organization	A nonprofit or for-profit organization focused on the welfare, rescue, sanctuary, or educational programs related to farm animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, etc.), including agricultural animal protection and humane farming practices.	No
Municipality with Animal Sheltering Facility	A government-run animal shelter operated by a city, county, or local government agency that provides animal control, care, and adoption services.	Yes
Municipality Without Animal Sheltering Facility	A government entity (city, county, or local agency) that provides animal welfare services or oversight but does not operate its own shelter facility.	Yes
Policy & Research Organizations	A nonprofit, academic institution, or for-profit organization focused on animal welfare advocacy, policy development, research, and evidence-based solutions to improve animal protection laws and practices.	No
Private/For Profit (LLC/PLLC/Corporation) - General	A for-profit company that provides animal welfare services, products, or training (excluding veterinary-specific practices).	No
Private/For Profit (LLC/PLLC/Corporation) - Veterinarian Specific	A for-profit veterinary practice or clinic that provides medical services to animals.	No
Private/For Profit Animal Transport Organization	A for-profit company that provides animal transportation services.	No
Religious Institution	A faith-based organization (church, synagogue, mosque, temple, etc.).	No

BISSELL Pet Foundation Organization Types and Definitions

Organization Type	Definition	Accepted into Partners for Pets?
Service/Therapy Animal Organization	A nonprofit or for-profit organization that trains, certifies, and/or places service animals (guide dogs, mobility assistance dogs, psychiatric service animals) or therapy animals (used in hospitals, schools, nursing homes) to assist individuals with disabilities or therapeutic needs.	No
Wildlife Organization	A nonprofit, government agency, or for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, rehabilitation, rescue, and protection of wild animal populations and their natural habitats.	No