**Guidelines: Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet License Plate Grants**  
(For spay/neuter, veterinary medical care, and microchipping shelter animals)

**Background**

The Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF) is a specific charitable fund established in 2001 by the Colorado State Legislature. CPOF exists to work with animal care and control organizations (including pet rescues), veterinarians and local communities to curb pet overpopulation in Colorado and to educate the public about the importance of controlling pet overpopulation.

The Fund has two primary revenue sources: (1) taxpayer donations to the Pet Overpopulation Fund check-off on the state income tax form and (2) proceeds from the sale of Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet license plates. Check-off funds are used primarily for spay/neuter of dogs and cats with owners. License plate funds are dedicated to spay/neuter and veterinary medical care costs of pet animals in the custody of animal care and control agencies. Both the check-off and license plate grant programs support overpopulation education initiatives.

CPOF is administered by an eight-person board of directors appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet License Plate Grants**

At this time, license plate funds are only available to fund spay/neuter, veterinary medical treatment, and microchip identification (implant and registration) of pet animals in the care of shelters, rescue groups, and animal control agencies. Only Colorado animal care and control organizations that principally serve Colorado animals and Colorado communities are eligible for funding. Grant funds are not available for the purchase of equipment or capital improvements.

License plate grants are awarded once each year, your application should therefore reflect requested funding for a 12-month period.

CPOF encourages funding from multiple sources, such as collaborating organizations, participating veterinarians and community support (e.g., individual donations, corporate giving, and foundation grants).

The maximum allowable expenditure per pet is as follows:

- $75 for spay/neuter surgery*
- $10 for microchip implant and registration
- $250 for non-emergency medical care
- $500 for emergency medical care

The total expenditure for any one animal should not exceed $585.**

* If the per pet cost for spay/neuter surgery is expected to exceed $75, please contact us prior to submitting your application.

** If the total amount spent on an individual pet exceeds $575, please notify us via e-mail or by calling 303-722-6435.

When using CPOF license plate grant funds for microchipping, the grant recipient is required to register each animal adopter’s information with the appropriate microchip registry.
**Application Requirements**

The application must propose an activity compatible with CPOF’s mission, i.e., programs in Colorado communities that promote shelter pet adoptions, subsidize sterilization and veterinary medical services to make shelter pets more adoptable, or microchip newly adopted shelter animals.