Food For Thought Program

ANIMAL PLACE'S FOOD for THOUGHT

We help animal shelters and rescues extend their compassion to all animals by adopting a vegetarian or vegan menu policy.

What is a vegetarian or vegan menu policy?

A vegetarian or vegan menu policy is a written, board-approved policy. The policy states that organizational funds will only be spent on vegetarian or vegan foods for your guests at events and fundraisers. Adopting a policy aligns your menu with your mission of saving animal lives and establishes you as a Food For Thought Policy Leader.

What is a Policy Leader?

A Policy Leader is an organization that has adopted a vegetarian or vegan menu policy that is verified with Food For Thought. Your organization is welcome to create your own policy or we can help by writing a vegetarian or vegan menu policy on your behalf. With your permission, we will list your organization on the Policy Leaders page of our website and promote you on social media.

Why should you adopt a vegetarian or vegan menu policy?

1   **Be a humane leader in the rescue community.** Since farmed animals suffer tremendously, it makes sense for animal welfare organizations to adopt policies that don't support this suffering. As a humane leader, it is your responsibility as an organization to operate as compassionately as possible.

2   **Recognize all types of companion animals.** Animals raised for food have the capacity to feel joy, pain, and fear just like those with whom we share our homes. Many people identify rabbits, chickens, pigs, goats, and other species as companions. If any of these animals came into your shelter, you would certainly provide them with the same level of care you would dogs and cats.

3   **Truly be "No-Kill."** Three million dogs and cats are killed in shelters across the US annually, yet more than 55 billion land and sea animals are killed for food each year. Do your part to reduce the number of animals killed unnecessarily by adopting a vegetarian or vegan menu policy for your events.

4   **Practice responsible donation use.** It is essential that animal nonprofits act with integrity by using their donations in service of their mission to help animals and reduce suffering. Using donated money to buy only vegetarian or vegan foods for events is responsible and ethically consistent. There is no justification for using funds obtained through harming one type of animal to help another.

5   **Protect the Environment.** Animal farming has an enormously negative impact on the environment including deforestation, habitat destruction, ocean dead zones, biodiversity loss, a significant reduction in freshwater, and worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.

Sample Policy: HSUS

People support The HSUS to help animals. As such, our policy is to see that all HSUS events, functions, or gatherings where food is made available—from small catered lunches in our offices to conferences such as Animal Care Expo and gala events such as the Genesis Awards—are free of animal products. Where this is impossible or unworkable, these circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Sample Policy: Friends for Life

Friends For Life believes that all animals should be treated humanely and with compassion throughout their lives. One way that Friends For Life chooses to support the concept of compassion to all living beings is that to the extent the shelter has control, only vegan (entirely plant-based) food and drink shall be provided at any shelter event whether located on or off the shelter campus.

Grant Opportunities

Vegan Policy Grant

This is a one-time gift awarded to organizations that have adopted a vegetarian or vegan menu policy within the last 6 weeks. Qualified organizations will receive $250 for adopting a vegetarian menu policy or $1,000 for adopting a vegan menu policy.

Vegan Event Grant

Qualified organizations will receive a one-time reimbursement of food costs up to $1,000 for their first fully vegan event.

Vegan Ticket Subsidy Grant

This is a one-time reimbursement of 50% of the cost of vegan meal tickets to an event or fundraiser, up to $1,000 per organization. Your organization may qualify for the vegan ticket subsidy if you are hosting an event with a clearly defined vegan meal ticket option that will be offered at half price to attendees.

Learn more and apply at FoodForThoughtCampaign.org/Grants

FAQ

Does it cost money?

No! All of our services are 100% complimentary. We would love to help you become a Policy Leader for FREE.

Do our rescued animals need to eat a vegetarian or vegan diet?

No! The policy only applies to food purchased for human consumption.

Does adopting a policy mean our staff and volunteers need to be vegetarian or vegan?

No! The policy is about how organizational funds are spent. We are not concerned with what individuals eat on their own time or purchase with their own money.

What if we have events or fundraisers hosted by outside venues where we can't choose the food?

You can still adopt a policy! The policy does not apply to food served by third-party venues unless specified by your organization.

What if someone donates food that isn't vegetarian or vegan?

Don't worry! The policy only applies to foods that are purchased using organizational funds.

Isn't serving meat with a vegetarian or vegan option good enough?

Having a vegetarian or vegan menu policy confirms to your supporters that you take the welfare of all animals seriously. Many organizations have seen increased support from adopting a policy since a fully vegetarian or vegan event is more inclusive.

Do you have any meal or catering suggestions? What if we live in a rural community where vegetarian or vegan foods are hard to find?

Yes! You can request product donations from vegan companies, talk with local restaurants, use chain restaurants with vegetarian or vegan items on their menus, make easy foods like rice, beans, and pasta, or host a potluck. For more specifics, email us!

We're here to help!

Have more questions? Ready to adopt a policy? Want us to write a policy for you?
Email us at **FoodForThought@AnimalPlace.org** or visit us at **FoodForThoughtCampaign.org**