

Plant-Based Menu Policy for Animal Rescue Organizations

1. Policy Overview

[Animal Rescue Organization Name] is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of animals and humans alike. As part of our commitment to animal welfare, sustainability, and healthier communities, we have adopted a plant-based menu policy for all of our events, fundraisers, and internal functions. This policy reflects our dedication to supporting the welfare of all animal species, reducing our environmental impact, and offering food choices that align with a more sustainable and compassionate lifestyle for our community.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all food and beverages served at:

- Fundraising events and community outreach events
- Volunteer gatherings and internal meetings
- Catering for special events (such as animal adoption days, volunteer training, etc.)
- Breakrooms and other workplace food offerings
- Other public-facing events hosted or supported by the organization

The policy covers meals and beverages provided directly by the organization, excluding food and beverages for animals in our care.

3. Definition of Plant-Based

For the purposes of this policy, "plant-based" means that all food and beverages served will be free from animal products, including:

- Meat, poultry, and seafood
- Dairy products (milk, cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- Eggs
- Honey
- Any other animal-derived ingredients or by-products (e.g., gelatin, rennet, etc.)

All meals and beverages served at organization-sponsored events will be made from plant-based ingredients such as fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, and other plant-derived products.

4. Objectives

- **Promote Animal Welfare:** By choosing plant-based foods, we take a stand against the exploitation of farmed animals for food production, aligning with our animal rescue mission to prevent cruelty and promote compassion for all beings.

- **Reduce Environmental Impact:** Plant-based food production is far less resource-intensive than animal agriculture, requiring less water, land, and energy, while generating fewer greenhouse gases.
- **Support Healthier Communities:** Offering plant-based meals at our events encourages healthy eating habits, the reduction of zoonotic disease and detrimental health risks caused by animal agriculture pollution, and contributes to the overall well-being of our volunteers, supporters, and the public.

5. Implementation Guidelines

- **Menu Planning:** All meals for internal and external events, including fundraisers, animal adoption events, and volunteer gatherings, must be plant-based. The event planners or catering teams will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- **Vendor Coordination:** We will collaborate with catering services and food vendors who specialize in or are willing to offer plant-based menus that meet our policy requirements.
- **Educational Support:** We will offer educational information on the benefits of plant-based eating to event participants, volunteers, and supporters, to help raise awareness and understanding of the organization's plant-based policy as needed.

6. Exceptions

- **Animal Care:** This policy does not apply to the food or supplies needed for the care of the animals in our care, including medical or specialty diets that may be required for individual animals.
- **Donated or Third-Party Food:** This plant-based menu policy applies solely to food purchased using organizational funds and does not extend to in-kind donations or third-party contributions. While we encourage plant-based options whenever possible, we recognize that donated food may not always align with our policy. We will work with event partners and donors to communicate our preferences and ensure plant-based choices are prioritized, but flexibility may be allowed depending on the nature of the donation.
- **Special Dietary Needs:** If certain dietary needs (for volunteers, staff, or event attendees) cannot be met with plant-based options, reasonable exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, but a plant-based menu will remain the default offering.

7. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed and updated as needed to remain effective and aligned with our organization's mission. Any changes to the policy will be communicated clearly to all relevant stakeholders.

Updated: January 2025