

This excerpt has been edited for length and clarity.

Senior dogs with susceptible immune systems in Chicago shelters are becoming increasingly sick the longer they wait for rescue.

Due to the amount of contagious illnesses in Chicago's shelter system, dogs being rescued from a Chicago shelter must be isolated from other dogs for 2-3 weeks post rescue. This limits placement options for rescue groups that do not have an isolated location.

This grant will continue to fund medical care for the senior dogs of One Tail at a Time's Isolation ("ISO") Program, which launched in June of 2017. In 2019, we were awarded a Grey Muzzle grant allocated to the care of these senior dogs who have been exposed to contagious illnesses at two of Chicago's largest open access shelters: Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) and Animal Welfare League - Wabash (AWL).

With the help of the grant, we were able to significantly increase our intake of senior dogs from 44 in 2018 to 84 in 2019, a very exciting increase of over 90 percent! The Grey Muzzle Organization played a crucial part in our senior dog program's success last year, by providing an average of \$125 per dog in medical care for 45 ISO Seniors.

Therefore, we respectfully return to The Grey Muzzle Organization this year to request \$8,125 in order to support medical care, again at \$125 per dog, for all 65 ISO seniors we anticipate rescuing in 2020. The majority of ISO seniors we rescue will end up needing between \$300-\$400 in medical care that is above our average cost per younger adult dogs. This \$125 per dog will go a long way in supporting the medical needs of Chicago's most vulnerable senior dogs!

In 2018 and 2019, all exposed seniors that One Tail at a Time rescued from these two shelters needed varying levels of treatment for Upper Respiratory Infections, compared to 70% of younger dogs rescued.

Furthermore, the longer senior dogs waited for rescue at these two shelters, the more likely their infection was to turn into pneumonia and require emergency care. Because of this, seniors from these two shelters face above average barriers in finding placement with rescue groups.

One Tail at a Time has created a robust Isolation program that includes a growing number of ISO foster homes and an ISO Center that provides a safe haven for exposed dogs. The opportunity exists to continue to pull an increased number of senior dogs at a faster rate from Chicago's two largest intake shelters. Even if an immediate foster home cannot be found, up to 10 dogs at a time can be transported from these two shelters to One Tail at a Time's Isolation Center.

If The Grey Muzzle Organization was to continue its support into 2020, staff members managing intake decisions can continue to feel more confident in pulling exposed seniors, knowing that \$125 for each new rescue's medical care has been secured in advance.

As we've seen, shortening an exposed senior dog's length of stay at the shelter is critical to a smooth and speedy recovery. The Grey Muzzle Organization's grant funding in 2019 made it possible for us to increase our intake of senior ISO dogs by more than 60% (25 more senior saves than in 2018) and overall senior dog intake by 90%.