

EU Animal Forening

Slotsvej 3 · 4871 Horbelev

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Sammen om dyr

Seniorer og unge – hånd i hånd
mod ensomhed og sammen for dyrevelfærd.



FÆLLESSKAB • OMSORG • DYREVELFÆRD

Project description and basis for foundation funding applications

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1. Background to EU Animal Forening

EU Animal Forening was founded by Jan and Charlotte Koldinghus with the aim of combining animal welfare with care for people experiencing loneliness, vulnerability or illness.

Jan is a qualified social and healthcare helper, and Charlotte is a qualified social and healthcare assistant. Through their healthcare work and their own experiences, they have seen how animals can create calm, security, contact and joy in life for people who are lonely or vulnerable, or who live with both short-term and long-term illness.

Animals can provide a natural shared focal point that makes it easier for people to meet and form relationships across differences in age, health and life situation. The association therefore wishes to build bridges between young and older people, volunteers and municipal services, and people and animals. The aim is to create communities in which everyone can contribute according to their abilities, and in which both people's quality of life and animal welfare are strengthened.

The project was created for people who are alone and miss closeness, community and someone with whom to share everyday life. When lonely young people, adults and older people meet others who may be in a similar situation, new relationships, security and a sense of belonging can develop.

The animals are more than a shared focal point. Contact with an animal can reduce feelings of loneliness, create calm and joy, and give the participant meaningful responsibility. When a person helps care for, tend to or engage an animal, this can strengthen self-confidence, a sense of responsibility and the feeling of being needed, thereby improving quality of life.

For people who grow older, become ill or find it more difficult to manage everyday tasks, the animal may be one of their most important relationships. The association therefore also wishes to support the person with practical tasks so that the person and animal can remain together for as long as possible, when this is safe and responsible for both.

2. Where the pilot project will take place

The first pilot phase of the project will be carried out in Guldborgsund Municipality. Once the experience from the pilot phase has been collected, documented and evaluated, the aim is to expand the project to neighbouring municipalities. The project will then be developed step by step so that, in the longer term, the model can be extended to the rest of Denmark.

3. Project preparation and project period

The idea for the project, bringing young people, adults and older people together around community, prevention of loneliness and animal welfare, was developed in June 2026.

Over the past 6–7 weeks, EU Animal Forening has worked purposefully to develop and prepare the project. Preparations have included founding and registering the association, drafting Articles of Association, establishing the Board, describing the project's purpose and target groups, developing activities, preparing foundation applications and making initial contact with relevant professionals and potential cooperation partners.

Part of the contact work coincided with the summer holiday period, when several employees in the municipality, the Volunteer Centre and other relevant organisations were on holiday. The association will therefore continue the work more intensively after the summer holidays through meetings, cooperation and applications for foundation funding.

The funded pilot period will run for 12 months and begin when the necessary funding and the most important cooperation arrangements are in place. The exact start and end dates will be determined on the basis of when

funding commitments are received. During the pilot period, staff will be employed, participants and volunteers recruited, activities launched, cooperation further developed, and the project's results documented and evaluated.

4. Project target groups and specific objectives

Project target groups

The project is intended for people aged 16 and above. There is no upper age limit. People should be able to be part of the community through different phases of life – first as a participant, perhaps later as a volunteer, and at another time as a user if they themselves need help in everyday life.

The young target group includes young people from the age of 16 who have completed or are leaving lower secondary school, have become tired of school, are between school, education and work, attend STU, are affiliated with the job centre, or need a safe community and a meaningful and structured everyday life. Through practical tasks and interaction with others, they can develop responsibility, social skills, self-confidence and experience that can help them move forward.

Adults and seniors may participate as volunteers and use their life and work experience to support young people, older people and other citizens. They may contribute according to their abilities and resources, and there is no upper age limit. If a volunteer later experiences illness, reduced functional capacity or a need for help, the person should still be able to remain part of the community as a user of the service.

The project is also aimed at older, lonely, ill and vulnerable citizens, as well as people with special needs or reduced capacity for work. Participants may enter the project through contact or referral from services for older people, home and elder care, vulnerable-person services, the job centre, STU, the Volunteer Centre, associations and other relevant services. Citizens and relatives should also be able to contact EU Animal Forening directly.

During the pilot period, the service is primarily aimed at citizens who live in Guldborgsund Municipality or are affiliated with a municipal, social or educational service in the municipality.

During the 12-month pilot period, the aim is to:

- recruit at least 10 adult and senior volunteers,
- involve at least 10 young participants,
- involve at least 10 older, lonely or vulnerable participants,
- carry out at least 12 joint activities centred on animals and animal welfare,
- establish at least 2 internship or work-capacity assessment placements,
- enter into cooperation with at least 3 municipal services, associations or other local cooperation partners.

Participants' attendance, experience of community, quality of life and benefit from the activities will be documented through registration and personal interviews at the beginning, midway through and at the end of the project's first year.

5. Description of the specific activities

The project's activities will bring together young people, adults, seniors and other participants around animals, nature, community and animal welfare. Activities will be organised according to participants' needs, abilities and interests and may include:

- joint walks and nature activities with animals,
- visits to shelters, animal centres, farms and other relevant places,
- social gatherings in which animals are the shared focal point,
- practical activities such as caring for, tending to and engaging animals,
- teaching and information meetings on responsible animal keeping and animal welfare,

- local animal-welfare days, fundraising and awareness events,
- joint activities in which young people and seniors help and learn from each other,
- visits and activities for lonely, ill or vulnerable people,
- internship and work-capacity assessment placements with tasks adapted to the individual.
- buddy visits in which a young person is accompanied by an experienced senior or employee when visiting an older, lonely or vulnerable citizen,
- practical support relating to the citizen's own animal, so that the person and animal can remain together for as long as possible when this is safe and responsible.

During the pilot period, at least one joint activity per month will be held for participants able to take part in the community. For participants unable to join the joint activities due to illness, disability, insecurity or other circumstances, smaller, individual or specially adapted activities will be offered as far as possible. All activities involving animals will be carried out with regard to both participant safety and animal well-being.

Buddy scheme between young people and seniors

When the project visits or assists an older, lonely or vulnerable citizen, a young person will, as a general rule, be accompanied by an experienced senior or employee. The senior will support and guide the young person in meeting the citizen's challenges in a calm, respectful and non-judgemental manner.

The young person will learn to listen, give the citizen time, speak calmly and respectfully, ask before providing help, and respect the citizen's boundaries and life story. This is intended to strengthen the young person's empathy, sense of responsibility, self-confidence and understanding of other people.

The buddy scheme will ensure that the young person is not left alone with responsibility or with problems they are not trained or ready to handle. The young person is not to act as a therapist, but to contribute presence, community and practical help under guidance. If a situation requires professional help, the project manager, an employee or the relevant professional will be contacted.

The importance of animals for loneliness and quality of life

Contact with an animal can provide calm, presence, joy and companionship in everyday life. For people who feel alone, an animal can be a secure relationship and help reduce feelings of loneliness. Animals do not replace human contact, but can make it easier for people to meet and form new relationships.

When a participant helps feed, care for, walk or engage an animal, the person assumes responsibility and experiences that their care is needed. This can give structure and meaning to everyday life and strengthen the participant's self-esteem and quality of life.

The association will also be able to support citizens who, because of age, illness or reduced functional capacity, have difficulty managing all tasks relating to their own animal. Help may include walks, feeding, care, purchasing feed, or accompaniment and transport to a veterinarian. The aim is for the person and animal to preserve their special bond and remain together for as long as possible, when the welfare needs of both person and animal are met.

What is EU Animal Forening seeking foundation funding for?

EU Animal Forening is seeking support to establish, implement, document and develop the first phase of the project.

Project management and coordination

- project planning,
- contact with participants and volunteers,
- coordination with municipal services,
- cooperation with the job centre, elder care and STU,

- meetings with cooperation partners,
- daily administration directly related to the project.

Recruitment and volunteering

- recruitment of adult and senior volunteers,
- recruitment of young people and other participants,
- information meetings,
- introduction and training in the buddy scheme, communication and safety,
- volunteer handbook,
- name badges and clothing,
- support for volunteers in their tasks.

Premises and activities

- rental of premises,
- meeting facilities,
- activity equipment,
- materials,
- coffee and refreshments,
- excursions,
- events,
- minor necessary furnishing and adaptations.

Transport

- transport of participants,
- mileage reimbursement in accordance with applicable rules,
- joint transport to activities,
- assistance for participants unable to travel independently.

Animals and nature

- equipment for animal and nature activities,
- safety equipment,
- cleaning materials,
- first-aid equipment,
- materials on responsible animal keeping,
- expenses for local animal-welfare events.

Communication and information

- information materials,
- posters and advertisements,
- website and digital solutions for the project,
- telephone and communication,
- translation of materials,
- communication of the project's results.

Safety and insurance

- relevant insurance policies,
- volunteer insurance,
- safety procedures,
- first-aid courses,
- child-protection certificates where necessary,

- consent forms,
- protection of participants' personal data.

Documentation and evaluation

- registration of activities and participants,
- personal interviews with users at the beginning, midway through and at the end,
- measurement of project results,
- reporting to the foundations,
- development of a project model,
- preparation of a handbook that can be used elsewhere.

Development in Denmark

- development of a model that can be used in neighbouring municipalities,
- establishment of new municipal and voluntary cooperation arrangements,
- adaptation of project materials for other municipalities,
- digital collaboration tools,
- documentation and sharing of experience,
- preparation for step-by-step expansion to the rest of Denmark.

6. Project finances and membership income

A preliminary budget estimate has been prepared for the project's 12-month pilot period. The estimate presents three possible staffing levels with 3, 4 or 5 full-time employees and is based on the planned activities and realistically calculated expenses.

The budget includes project management, premises, transport, activities, materials, insurance, safety, communication, documentation, accounts and evaluation.

The amounts are preliminary and will be adjusted when the necessary quotations and price estimates have been obtained and when it has been clarified how many employees the funding obtained will allow. The project finances of EU Animal Forening must be kept clearly separate from the finances of EU Animal I/S.

Jan and Charlotte Koldinghus are founders of both EU Animal Forening and EU Animal I/S and owners of EU Animal I/S. The association and the business are two independent entities, each with its own finances, bank account and accounting.

Once the necessary funding has been obtained, Jan Koldinghus is expected to be employed on salary as project manager by EU Animal Forening. The salary is payment for the actual work of project management, planning, contact with cooperation partners, coordination, follow-up and evaluation, and must be openly stated in the project's separate budget. The Board supervises the employment and use of funds.

Preliminary budget estimate

The budget is calculated with Jan Koldinghus employed full-time as project manager at DKK 38,000 per month and other employees at DKK 32,000 per month per person.

Approximately 25% has been added to salaries for pension, holiday pay, ATP, occupational injury insurance and other employer costs. The 25% is a preliminary budget reserve, not a single fixed statutory rate. Final employer costs depend on employment agreements, pension schemes and holiday arrangements.

All employees in the estimate are calculated as full-time employees for 12 months.

Expense	3 employees	4 employees	5 employees
Salary before employer costs	1.224.000 DKK	1.608.000 DKK	1.992.000 DKK

Expense	3 employees	4 employees	5 employees
Pension, holiday pay, ATP, etc., estimated at 25%	306.000 DKK	402.000 DKK	498.000 DKK
Premises and operating costs	180.000 DKK	180.000 DKK	180.000 DKK
Transport	250.000 DKK	250.000 DKK	250.000 DKK
Activities and materials	150.000 DKK	150.000 DKK	150.000 DKK
Insurance and safety	60.000 DKK	60.000 DKK	60.000 DKK
Telephone, website and communication	50.000 DKK	50.000 DKK	50.000 DKK
Evaluation, accounts and administration	75.000 DKK	75.000 DKK	75.000 DKK
Reserve for unforeseen expenses, approximately 10%	229.500 DKK	277.500 DKK	325.500 DKK
Total budget	2.524.500 DKK	3.052.500 DKK	3.580.500 DKK

Proposal with three employees

As a general rule, a pilot project with three employees can be organised as follows:

Jan Koldinghus – Project Manager

Responsible for development, cooperation partners, financial coordination, personal interviews with users and evaluation.

Activities and Volunteer Coordinator

Responsible for volunteers, participants, activities and contact with elder care, STU and other services.

Activities and Transport Employee

Responsible for transporting participants, assistance during activities and practical tasks relating to animals and events.

With four or five employees, an administration and communications employee and an additional activities employee may be added.

Transport budget

The DKK 250,000 may, for example, cover:

- mileage reimbursement for employees and volunteers,
- transport of users to activities,
- rental of a bus or minibus,
- excursions,
- fuel and parking expenses,
- possible leasing of a small project vehicle.

When employees' private cars are used, the estimate is based on tax-free mileage reimbursement of up to DKK 3.94 per kilometre for the first 20,000 kilometres per employee and DKK 2.28 thereafter. Mileage must be recorded and documented.

Premises

The DKK 180,000 per year corresponds to approximately DKK 15,000 per month and may initially cover:

- rent,
- electricity, water and heating,
- internet,
- cleaning,
- minor furnishing and adaptations,

- furniture and meeting facilities.

It is proposed that the first foundation budget be based on three full-time employees and a total budget of approximately DKK 2.5 million for the first year. Four or five employees may be described as an expansion if the association obtains support from several foundations or the municipality.

Membership for project users

All persons who use the services and activities of EU Animal Forening must be members of the association and pay the applicable membership fee. This applies to the project's users and participants. The requirement does not apply to volunteers solely by virtue of their voluntary work.

Type	Per month	Per quarter	Per half-year	Per year
Adult member	DKK 50 / approx. EUR 7	DKK 147 / approx. EUR 20	DKK 294 / approx. EUR 39.50	DKK 588 / approx. EUR 79
Young person under 18, senior aged 65+ or vulnerable member	DKK 40 / approx. EUR 5.50	DKK 117.60 / approx. EUR 16	DKK 235.20 / approx. EUR 31.50	DKK 470.40 / approx. EUR 63.50
Household membership, 2 adults + up to 2 children under 18	DKK 80 / approx. EUR 11	DKK 235.20 / approx. EUR 31.50	DKK 470.40 / approx. EUR 63.50	DKK 940.80 / approx. EUR 126.50
Supporting member	from DKK 40 / approx. EUR 5.50	from DKK 117.60 / approx. EUR 16	from DKK 235.20 / approx. EUR 31.50	from DKK 470.40 / approx. EUR 63.50
Business / supporting partner	DKK 100 / approx. EUR 13.50	DKK 294 / approx. EUR 39.50	DKK 588 / approx. EUR 79	DKK 1,176 / approx. EUR 158

The term senior 65+ in the membership overview relates solely to the special membership-fee rate and is not an upper age limit for participation in the project.

Income from membership fees will help finance the association's activities and the future operation of the services. Total membership income cannot yet be determined, as it depends on the number of users and supporting members who enrol.

In the project budget, membership income must therefore be stated as expected income, calculated on the basis of the anticipated number of members. Foundation funding must cover the establishment and project expenses that cannot be covered by membership fees, supporting partners and the association's other income.

Support from foundations and cooperation partners

EU Animal Forening has applied for support and assistance from several sources, including a number of foundations and relevant cooperation partners. No final commitments of support have yet been received.

When the association receives support, EU Animal's website will state who has supported our work on the "Hand in Hand" project, unless the donor wishes to remain anonymous. In this way, we make visible and acknowledge the foundations, businesses, organisations and other contributors who help make the project possible.

If the association receives support from several sources, the funds will be allocated among the project's different expenses so that the same expense is not financed twice. All foundation funding received, membership income and other contributions must be clearly stated in the project accounts.

Foundation funding must be used for EU Animal Forening's public-benefit project and documented project expenses, including salaries for project employees and the project manager. The funds may not be used for

ordinary commercial operations in EU Animal I/S. There must be a clear separation between the association's project finances and the business's finances.

7. Who is responsible?

Jan Koldinghus is the project manager and is responsible for the project's day-to-day development, planning and coordination. His responsibilities include contact with cooperation partners, coordination of employees and volunteers, and personal follow-up interviews with users at the beginning, midway through and at the end of the first project year.

The project's finances and the use of foundation funding, membership income and other contributions are managed by Jan Koldinghus in consultation with the Board of EU Animal Forening. The Board has overall supervisory responsibility and must ensure that finances and activities comply with the association's purpose and the donors' conditions.

If Jan Koldinghus becomes ill or is otherwise unable to perform the role of project manager, Charlotte Koldinghus may step in and take over day-to-day coordination. She may also step in as Chairperson if this is decided by the Board and takes place in accordance with the association's Articles of Association.

Board members Thomas and Malene have healthcare qualifications as a social and healthcare helper and social and healthcare assistant. They may step in and assist with contact and support for participants, guidance of young people and volunteers, implementation of activities, practical coordination and cover during illness or absence.

The Board agrees and documents who takes over each area of responsibility if the project manager is prevented from acting, so that the project's activities, finances, participants and cooperation continue to be managed responsibly.

8. Cooperation partners and status

Following the initial preparation period, EU Animal Forening has begun contacting relevant professionals and potential cooperation partners in Guldborgsund Municipality. Contact will be intensified after the summer holidays, when the relevant employees are available again.

The purpose is to explore opportunities for cooperation and clarify how each cooperation partner may contribute to the project. No final cooperation agreements have yet been entered into, but the association will continuously document contacts, meetings and agreements made.

Contact has included

- Jamal Tamimi-Sarnikowski, volunteer consultant in services for older people,
- Anne Katrine Petersen in services for older people,
- Stine Koefoed Holm, development consultant in services for vulnerable people.

The association will also contact the job centre, STU, elder care, the Volunteer Centre, local associations, animal-welfare organisations and other relevant parties.

Information meeting for potential cooperation partners

When possible, EU Animal Forening will invite relevant potential cooperation partners to a joint information meeting. The meeting will allow participants to become better acquainted with the association, the project's background and the persons responsible.

At the meeting, the association will present the project's purpose, target groups, activities, the buddy scheme between young people and seniors, work involving older and vulnerable citizens, referral opportunities, participant

safety and animal well-being. Cooperation partners will also have the opportunity to ask questions, provide professional input and explain how they may be able to contribute.

After the information meeting, the association will follow up with individual participants with a view to specific cooperation. When a potential partner has expressed interest, the association will request a brief declaration of interest or cooperation that can be attached to relevant foundation applications.

9. Documentation and evaluation

Project results will be documented by recording participants, attendance, activities and participant hours. Jan Koldinghus is responsible for personal follow-up and conducts individual interviews with users at the beginning of their participation, midway through the project period and at the end of the project's first year.

The interviews will examine users' experience of loneliness, community, joy in life, security and their personal benefit from the activities. As far as possible, the same questions will be used in all three interviews so that development can be compared. Information will be treated confidentially, and results will be compiled and anonymised for reporting. The number of animal-welfare activities carried out and the specific results created for animals and animal welfare will also be recorded.

Results will be documented through

- number of volunteers,
- number of participants,
- participants' age and target group,
- number of activities,
- number of participant hours,
- number of cooperation partners,
- number of internship or work-capacity assessment placements,
- participants' experience of community and quality of life,
- specific animal-welfare results.
- development in users' experience from the beginning to the midway point and conclusion.

10. Continuation of the project after the first year

Once the project's first year has been completed, the aim is to continue and further develop it through new foundation applications, municipal cooperation and the association's own funds, including membership fees and support contributions.

Experience and results from the pilot period will be used to document the project's value and create a basis for more long-term cooperation and funding. The aim is for the project gradually to become less dependent on individual foundation grants and to be financed to a greater extent through a combination of foundation support, municipal cooperation, membership income, supporting partners and own funds.

Once the project model has been tested and documented in Guldborgsund Municipality, the aim is first to expand it to neighbouring municipalities and then, step by step, to the rest of Denmark. Expansion will take place as local cooperation is established and sustainable funding is found.

Expected results during the pilot period

The project is expected to create, among other things:

- more active senior volunteers,
- new relationships between young and older people,
- less loneliness,

- greater joy in life and social contact,
- more meaningful activities for older people,
- more young people with practical experience,
- new internship and work-capacity assessment opportunities,
- better cooperation between the municipality and civil society,
- more local animal-welfare activities,
- greater understanding between generations,
- a completed model that can be extended.
- greater empathy, responsibility and social skills among young people,
- safe buddy placements in which young people learn from experienced seniors and are not left alone with difficult situations,
- improved quality of life through contact with animals and meaningful responsibility,
- more people receiving support to preserve their relationship with their own animal for longer.

Long-term results

The long-term aim is to create a sustainable community in which:

- seniors help seniors,
- young and older people learn from each other,
- lonely people form new relationships,
- people on the margins of the labour market gain meaningful opportunities,
- municipal services and voluntary associations cooperate,
- animals are treated better,
- experience can be shared with neighbouring municipalities and later the rest of Denmark.
- people can alternate between being helpers and recipients of help through different phases of life,
- people and their animals have the opportunity to remain together for as long as possible.

The project should be capable of developing into a nationwide network of local communities working according to the same basic principles while being adapted to local conditions.

The project's core message

Together around animals – seniors and young people hand in hand against loneliness and together for animal welfare – will create a community in which no one is forgotten.

Seniors will have the opportunity to use their experience and help others.

Lonely older people will have more contact, presence and joy in life.

Young people will have the opportunity to learn, take responsibility and become part of a safe community.

People with illness, special needs or reduced capacity for work will have the opportunity to contribute according to their abilities.

Municipal services, associations and volunteers will work together.

Animals and animal welfare will be the shared focal point connecting people, generations and local communities.

The animals will help reduce feelings of loneliness, create calm and presence, and give participants responsibility that strengthens their self-confidence and quality of life.

When a person, due to age, illness or other challenges, finds it difficult to care for their animal alone, the community will, as far as possible, support the relationship so that the person and animal can remain together for as long as possible.

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