



MEMBERSHIP - Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the CFHS?

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is the national voice of member humane societies and SPCAs. We bring together those who work with and care for animals to promote respect and humane treatment toward all animals.

Since we were founded in 1957, we've earned our reputation and credibility as the "go-to" national voice on animal welfare issues for industry, media, government, non-governmental organizations and the public. The CFHS is an animal welfare organization. There are many differences between animal welfare and animal rights groups. It is primarily the philosophies and views regarding the use and treatment of animals that differentiates the two. Regardless of the label, the majority of these groups have the best interest of animals at heart. To learn more about the animal rights/animal welfare spectrum, please go to our website, www.cfhs.ca, click on "Who we are" and then "Understanding the animal rights / animal welfare spectrum".

We work collaboratively and cooperatively with key stakeholders based on the premise that we can have the greatest impact creating positive change by being a part of the process rather than being apart from it.

We drive positive, progressive change nationally to end animal cruelty and improve animal protection through the enactment of effective legislation.

We provide leadership on animal welfare issues and ensure these crucial messages are heard and understood from coast to coast by politicians, policy makers and the media.

Our approach to improving the welfare of animals makes us a respected voice and key player in any national discussion on the use of animals.

Who are the CFHS members?

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies currently represents approximately 40 member organizations — mostly SPCAs and humane societies — located in nine provinces and two territories. Our members range from provincial organizations with many branches to small, volunteer-run shelters in rural communities, as well as animal welfare advocacy groups across the nation. From their diverse backgrounds, our members have come together with a common goal: to improve and promote animal welfare in Canada.

For a complete list of our current members, please visit our website. www.cfhs.ca, and click on “Members” and then “Find a member”.

Who do you accept as members?

Our members are a diverse bunch, coming from many different backgrounds and with a multitude of different priorities and needs. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies will consider applications from charitable and non-profit organizations in the animal welfare sector that operate within Canada (on a national, regional or local level).

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept every application we receive. Successful applicants subscribe to our principles, such as ethical fundraising and a commitment to work with other organizations toward common goals.

Once an application has been received, the CFHS will determine if an organization adheres to our criteria and shares our vision for a more humane Canada. The applicant will be informed of the CFHS’s decision within a period of three (3) months.

Why should I be a member?





By choosing to join the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, your organization will be displaying a commitment to promote an animal welfare agenda throughout the nation. In addition, membership to the CFHS offers a number of benefits. We know that operating a shelter is a demanding community challenge, so we do our best to make that responsibility more manageable by improving the environment in which you operate and by providing resources to help you strengthen your operations. At the national level, we work on your behalf to address issues that are national in importance but relevant and crucial to you and your supporters in your community.

In short, membership in the CFHS is an investment in an animal-friendly Canada.

What will membership do for me?

We know that operating a shelter or other type of community-based animal welfare organization is a demanding challenge. We work to make that responsibility more manageable by improving the environment in which you operate and by connecting you with your peers across Canada.

The CFHS Membership Benefits Bundle

-  Increased credibility and visibility as part of Canada’s national voice for animal welfare
-  Opportunities to connect with, learn from, and mentor (or be mentored by) dozens of other animal welfare organizations across the country.
-  Opportunity to be profiled and promoted on the CFHS website and in our electronic and print publications.
-  Opportunities to participate in national awareness and advocacy campaigns.

- ▲ Access to a truly unique funding research service — you tell us what funding you need, and we'll find out where the money is!
- ▲ Access to an online platform for the exchange of information, resources, tools and expertise among our valued members.
- ▲ Access to our comprehensive library/information research and lending service as well as the CHFS Clearinghouse — an online repository of exemplary practices, templates and resources on animal welfare and organizational management.
- ▲ Representation on a number of influential committees and coalitions, including Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), the National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC), the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), among others.

How much involvement with the CFHS can I expect?

As a member of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, you would receive our monthly electronic newsletter (available in both French and English) informing you of our programs, important updates on animal welfare in Canada, as well as various opportunities as they arise.

Members also have opportunities to join the CFHS Board of Directors and executive committees.

We strive to ensure that members who wish to be active participants in the federation find ample opportunities to do so. Of course, all involvement is strictly voluntary.

How do I apply for membership?

Applying for membership couldn't be easier! Simply contact us for a membership information package, which includes an Application Form, a Value of Membership info sheet, and a Membership Fee Structure guide. Alternately, a [membership information package](#) may also be downloaded in PDF form or found on our website at www.cfhs.ca; click on "Members" and then "Join the CFHS".

When you complete and submit your application form, you are also asked to submit a copy of your organization's most recent audited financial statement, to allow us to calculate the membership fee.

What is due diligence?

Due diligence is our way of protecting you. The membership application and applicant review process has been codified to prevent unfair treatment and to ensure a transparent, consistent process for all applicants.

How much will the fees cost me?

The annual membership fee is set at **2/5 of 1% of your organization's operational revenue** — excluding bequests, revenues originating from municipal contracts, and funds collected in capital campaign efforts — to a **minimum fee of \$50** and a **maximum fee of \$3,000**.

In 2010, 32 percent of membership fees were less than \$250.

As a new member, your organization would eligible for a discount of 15% during the first year of membership.

What if I can't afford membership?

It is our goal to allow all interested organizations that meet our criteria to join the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. To this end, the CFHS' membership fee structure is designed for affordability for all our members, from the largest to the smallest. We also offer flexible payment options and frequent discounts (such as our annual "early bird" renewal discount). For more information on what we can do to make your membership as affordable as possible, please contact us.

What if I don't have audited financial statements?

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies requires that each membership applicant provides us with a copy of their organization's financial statement for the most recent year available. This statement is used to calculate the membership fee. Audited statements are preferred, but are not required.

How do I maintain my membership?

In addition to regular contact throughout the year, member organizations are contacted once per calendar year for renewal. Once annual dues have been received, membership is automatically renewed. The CFHS reserves the right to deny renewal to organizations who have failed to meet agreed-upon criteria, as outlined by the member criteria checklist contained in the application form.

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

For additional questions about membership, please contact Lori Waller, CFHS communications coordinator, at:

Tel.: 1-888-678-2347 ext. 12
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