

## SAMPLE ANIMAL FRIENDLY MENU POLICIES

Below you will find the adopted language used by different organizations for their animal-friendly menu policies. If applying for the Food for Thought [shelter grant](#), your policy must be plant-based.

**(V):** Entirely vegan policy.

### **21st Paradigm**

21st Paradigm produces media to educate on animal welfare. We consider all our events an opportunity to expose people to awesome vegetarian food—which is why we hire the best chefs! It's a great feeling to have people arrive as meat-eaters and leave inspired to become vegetarian. Not only that, we would look foolish were we to ask for help saving one species while serving another on a plate. It's this that makes Food for Thought such a fantastic organization uniting us all in creating a more conscious and humane culture, one plate at a time.

### **Actors and Others for Animals**

It is the policy of Actors and Others for Animals to serve vegetarian food at all of its sponsored events.

### **Animal Legal Defense Fund (V)**

Consistent with its mission, ALDF staff and volunteers agree that they will not introduce into any ALDF office, or at any ALDF function outside the office (e.g., staff lunches, meetings, etc.), products that are derived, in whole or in part, from an animal. Such products include, but are not limited to, meat, fish, poultry, eggs, dairy products (including milk, yogurt, cheese), leather, and wool.

### **Animal Place (V)**

Animal Place recognizes that animal cruelty is inherent in the commercial production of meat, milk, eggs, and other animal products. We therefore, pledge to promote the adoption of a vegan diet, and accordingly pledge to serve only plant based food products at our organization's functions and events.

### **Animal Protection League of New Jersey (V)**

APLNJ advocates veganism (total vegetarianism) as the most significant way of eliminating animal suffering. Veganism encompasses not only dietary changes, but lifestyle changes that reduce and eliminate animal suffering. This includes, but is not limited to food, clothing, household goods, adornments, toiletries, sports, amusements and medicines where it is within the realm of possibility. All APLNJ functions must be vegan.

### **Animal Rescue Foundation**

Consistent with our mission statement, it is ARF's policy to serve a vegetarian menu at its events. ... A vegetarian menu will exclude all meat, poultry, fish, and seafood products. ... When and where appropriate, the menu should contain a statement of ARF's vegetarian preference.

### **Animal Rescue Inc. (V)**

As a rescue organization, Animal Rescue, Inc.'s staff and volunteers see first-hand the senseless suffering that is inflicted upon innocent animals on a daily basis... It is, therefore, the policy of Animal Rescue, Inc. that only vegan food will be provided at all shelter-sponsored events, from small meetings of staff and volunteers, to large gatherings such as our annual Dogs' Day in the Park Festival & Mutt Strut, to ensure that all of our shelter-sponsored events are free of animal products for human consumption.

### **Beagle Freedom Project (V)**

Beagle Freedom Project is 100% vegan and cruelty-free in the office and at every event it hosts.

### **Best Friends**

At Best Friends, the pursuit of our mission to achieve our vision specifically involves ending the killing of companion animals in shelters. While those efforts are currently focused on companion animals, the vision of Best Friends is very simple: "A better world through kindness to animals." Our current guiding principles are also prescriptive about how Best Friends should show compassion to all living creatures. **Golden Rule: To treat all living things as we ourselves would wish to be treated. Kindness: To demonstrate compassion and respect for all living creatures.** It is incongruent with our guiding principles to support industries that raise and slaughter animals for food, as these animals often live in inhumane and even torturous conditions. Given the above, food served at all Best Friends staff meetings and employee events, the food that employees are reimbursed for while traveling, employee food choices when meeting with donors, and food served at any other Best Friends-related events should be vegetarian, and whenever feasible, entirely plant-based. While not all Best Friends staff follow plant-based or vegetarian diets, Best Friends is an organization dedicated to animals and their well-being. Best Friends staff are expected to respect and follow this policy when using donor money because it is important that, as employees of Best Friends, we always represent the values of the organization.

### **Born Free USA (V)**

Born Free USA is dedicated to helping animals and recognizes that food preferences are a matter of personal choice. Born Free USA's office team is generally vegan/vegetarian and all officially sponsored Born Free USA events and meetings are vegan/vegetarian and all office visitors are encouraged to respect this position. Born Free USA discourages the consumption of animals on its premises and encourages team members to be considerate of his or her fellow team members in regards to this matter.

### **Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (V)**

At BWAR internal events (staff meetings, holiday parties, etc.) where food is served and to which employees, volunteers, and/or guests have been invited to participate, we will only serve vegan fare. As a reminder, vegan foods are those that contain no forms of meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, eggs, dairy products, honey, or animal byproducts such as gelatin, rennet, and whey. External events under the control of BWAR will also only serve vegan fare. For events in which BWAR participates with other organizations but does not have total control over, we'll make every effort to serve all vegan or vegetarian food. Partnering organizations are to be informed that vegan options should be available and that they are preferred. At all such external events, signs should be used whenever possible to identify vegan and vegetarian foods. Of course, we recognize that not all staff members follow vegan diets, but when representing BWAR, employees are expected to follow these guidelines and respect organizational policy.

### **Center for Animal Protection and Education (V)**

The Center for Animal Protection and Education (CAPE) extends the concept of compassion to all living beings. Therefore, we have a policy that only vegan food is provided at our events.

### **Center for Biological Diversity**

The Center for Biological Diversity recognizes livestock production as one of the greatest threats to wildlife and the planet. Consistent with our Earth-friendly Diet campaign, which urges people to reduce meat consumption as a critical means of reducing their environmental footprint, it is the Center's policy to serve vegetarian-only menus at events where food is provided by the organization.

### **City Wildlife**

The Board of Directors of City Wildlife has endorsed a policy that all events, large or small, sponsored by City Wildlife will be vegetarian.

### **Compassion Over Killing (V)**

One of the best ways we can express our compassion for all animals is to simply choose to leave them off our plates. That's the message behind Animal Place's effective **Food For Thought** program—and that's a message and campaign we proudly endorse.

### **Connecticut Votes for Animals (V)**

It is the policy of Connecticut Votes for Animals to provide only plant-based (vegan) menus when sponsoring events. For potlucks, attendees are strongly encouraged to bring plant-based food. If CVA participates in a larger event with other organizations, CVA will advocate for a humane menu, as far as possible.

### **East Bay SPCA**

In keeping with the trend of change, EBSPCA is going vegetarian. This means that any meals or food purchased by the EBSPCA for staff lunches, VIP events, Board Meetings, et al will be vegetarian fare. We are one of the last animal welfare groups in the area that still serves meat options, and we feel that we are overdue for this change. We respect that dietary choices are quite personal, and we do not intend to dictate what anyone eats; however as an organization we feel we could be better in tune with our mission by implementing this new policy for any food purchased by/provided by EBSPCA.

### **Fences For Fido (V)**

Like most animal welfare groups, we support the wider cause of animal welfare by serving plant-based foods at our events. This policy covers food purchased and served by Fences For Fido at its officially-sponsored events.

### **Food Empowerment Project (V)**

Food Empowerment Project is pleased to support the Food for Thought campaign. As a vegan organization that supports the non-oppression of human and non-human animals, we emphasize the many ways our food choices impact others, and we join the call for shelters and sanctuaries to be consistent in their ethics as they go about doing their work.

### **Foster Parrots**

As an animal welfare organization, Foster Parrots/NEEWS will only organize fundraiser events, staff and volunteer gatherings, meetings, or other organizational events that offer a vegetarian based menu.

### **Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary (V)**

Out of respect for the non-human residents of Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, all of our events both on- and off-site are completely plant based. When inviting visitors onsite who may bring their own food, we ask that their meals and snacks are also vegan.

### **Hearts United for Animals**

Hearts United for Animals (HUA) shall only provide vegetarian and/or vegan food options at events sponsored by HUA.

### **Homeward Trails Animal Rescue**

Homeward Trails offers only vegetarian products at our events.

### **Hugs for Homeless Animals**

At Hugs for Homeless Animals, the core of our mission is to help animals and to educate the public in the value of animals in our society. In this regard, we have implemented a humane menu policy for all of our events, meetings and social gatherings. A humane menu is a vegetarian menu in which no animals are used as food products. It is the responsibility of each of our employees, directors and volunteers to maintain that this policy is upheld.

### **Humane Society of Huron Valley**

We only purchase vegetarian or vegan food [for human consumption]... even if donated or a potluck.

### **Humane Society of the United States (V)**

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.

### **Humane Society Silicon Valley**

Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV), in keeping with its principles and philosophy, will not provide or pay for animal meat, including fish or fowl, at any Humane Society Silicon Valley sponsored events. This includes fundraising, volunteer and staff events.

### **Kingston Animal Rescue**

Simply put: we don't hurt animals to help animals. Though our focus is on rescuing domestic animals, compassion for all animals guides our policies and practices. We are proud to endorse the **Food for Thought** campaign and encourage other rescues and shelters to do the same. Making the easy choice to serve only vegan/vegetarian food simply serves to extend our impact.

### **Maine Animal Coalition**

All our events are vegan/vegetarian. MAC refrains from contributing to animal suffering wherever possible; this includes demonstrating respect for animals, avoiding the use of products with animal-derived ingredients, and actively encouraging cruelty-free alternatives.

### **Marin Humane Society**

It is the policy of the Marin Humane Society that no meat products shall be served at Humane Society functions. The Marin Humane Society has been a longtime supporter of the **Food for Thought** Program and strongly encourages organizations to join this effort. Respect for all animals begins with not seeing the animals our organizations rescue as nothing more than a meal. For over two decades the Marin Humane Society has proudly adopted policies that eliminate serving animals as dining options at our events and we hope many organizations support this program.

### **Maryland Votes for Animals (V)**

Being that Maryland Votes for Animals (MVFA) is an organization dedicated to ending the suffering of animals and improving their lives, it is the policy of the MVFA to only serve vegan food options at its events. Furthermore, it is the policy of the MVFA to advocate for vegan options at events in which it is a participant.

### **Massachusetts Animal Coalition**

MAC serves vegetarian food at its events.

### **Massachusetts Voters for Animals**

We have always served veg\*n food at our events.

### **MEOW Cat Rescue**

At MEOW, we've had a Board formalized animal-friendly menu policy for events for many years. Any and all activities where food is offered, including meetings, volunteer projects, etc., are strictly vegetarian.

### **Mercy for Animals (V)**

MFA is a vegan advocacy organization and has a strict vegan-only policy for all of our events, office, and so forth.

### **New England Anti-Vivisection Society (V)**

No animal products (e.g., meat, seafood, eggs, dairy products, leather, fur, etc.) are allowed in the NEAVS office or at any NEAVS function. Expense Claims for Food: claims can only be made for meals which are vegan.

### **Niagra Action for Animals (V)**

We only serve vegan items at events... No fundraising event held under the NAFa banner should condone, promote, or endorse any form of animal exploitation.

### **Northwest Spay & Neuter Center**

Northwest Spay and Neuter Center does follow a board-adopted strict vegetarian (with vegan option) policy for our events. Most of our board is vegan, and we really believe that our animal care organization should be reflected in our practices outside of just our surgical approach and in-clinic experience.

### **Northwest Veg (V)**

Our mission is to educate and encourage people to make vegan choices for a healthy, sustainable, and compassionate world. We fully support the Food for Thought campaign because it is a great way for shelters to do just that.

### **Ohlone Humane Society**

Ohlone Humane Society strives to inspire respect and compassion for all animals, advocate for their interests and welfare, and instill in our community that all living beings have a right to be treated humanely. Any organizational event adheres to serving only vegetarian fare and we are increasingly moving to a plant-based menu.

### **Palo Alto Humane Society**

We do have a no-meat policy. We try to have vegan menus whenever possible.

### **Pasado's Safe Haven (V)**

Our policies aim to avoid the inherent contradiction that would be created if we spent our resources to save the lives of animals farmed for food while consuming (or wearing or using) the very products that result from their suffering. ... Pasado's Safe Haven is an organization that promotes veganism, meaning that we do our very best to not use any products derived from animals or involved in animal testing. With this in mind, all food brought to or provided at Pasado's Safe Haven premises and events must be plant-based/vegan (free of all animal products). We also seek to eliminate all leather, wool and down from the sanctuary by continuing to educate staff and volunteers about alternatives. We will also work to ensure none of our discretionary cleaning products are tested on animals.

### **Peaceful Fields Sanctuary (V)**

Peaceful Fields sanctuary was founded to provide a happy and healthy forever home for farm animals in need free from abuse and cruelty near Winchester, VA in the Shenandoah valley. PFS believes in saving lives as an act of stewardship through rescue work and educating the public on compassion through a vegan life that honors all creation.

### **Peace Ridge Sanctuary (V)**

It is so very important for animal welfare organizations to consider the impact of their choices and messaging—what they say and do has a real outcome for animals. When an animal welfare organization, animal shelter, or advocacy group chooses to forgo inclusion of all animals in their circle of compassion, they set the tone for their audience. Whether they realize it or not, they work against the animals that we are trying to help, and they reinforce unhealthy, damaging paradigms that deepen our struggle to promote the change that we so desperately seek for all animals. We are so happy to support this essential initiative and we hope that the Food for Thought Campaign inspires many more organizations to adopt a peaceful menu, thus supporting true animal welfare.

### **Pets In Need**

To help fight cruelty to animals in the food industry, Pets In Need serves vegetarian at all its internal functions. While our mission is rescuing dogs and cats who are in danger of being killed in public facilities, as a humane organization we are absolutely against any form of cruelty. The food industry has long been a source of horror for animals, and we must speak out on their behalf.

### **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine**

We have an office policy that we don't have animal-derived foods or clothing in the office. That's part of our personnel manual, and our staff love it. And needless to say, our galas and special events always serve vegan food—never any animal products.

### **Portland Animal Welfare Team**

The Portland Animal Welfare Team (PAW Team) is dedicated to helping the pets of the homeless and those living in acute poverty. As part of our respect for animals we are implementing a policy to provide only vegetarian or vegan foods at our clinics and events.

### **Rabbit Rescue Inc. (V)**

In compassionate allegiance with all animals, and with our many friends in animal rescue, Rabbit Rescue Inc. supports the **Food For Thought** campaign and serves no animal-derived products at our functions or events.

### **RedRover**

In order to respect the philosophy of many of our donors, volunteers and staff and to increase awareness about humane choices, RedRover has a policy of only purchasing (and reimbursing expenses for) vegetarian food items and maintains a meat-free workplace. RedRover respects that people hold different philosophies about the use of animals in our society and supports the adoption of animal-friendly menu policies that focus on primarily plant-based foods as a way to increase awareness about more humane choices, initiate conversation and help people begin to think about ways they can create change simply by the choices they make.

### **Rikki's Refuge Animal Sanctuary**

We encourage living a compassionate animal-friendly lifestyle by insisting that "we dine WITH our friends, not on our friends." To that end, our policy at Rikki's Refuge is that every event that we sponsor, both onsite and off, will only serve vegetarian food. And we ask that any food brought onto the property by visitors will also be animal-friendly vegetarian foods. Rikki's Refuge Animal Sanctuary wholeheartedly endorses the Food for Thought campaign. We believe that any animal rescue, sanctuary, or the like should be an example when it comes to honoring and respecting ALL sentient beings. Having an animal-friendly menu policy is a great place to start since a compassionate lifestyle very often begins at the table.

### **River's Wish Animal Sanctuary (V)**

River's Wish Animal Sanctuary advocates compassionate choices through vegan living. Out of respect for the animals and the sanctuary's mission, values, and vision, only plant-based foods will be offered at our fundraising events, meetings, or other functions. The animals in our care represent millions of others who suffer in animal agriculture and other exploitative industries. We remember and honor them in our everyday actions and through our vegan menu policy.

### **Rooterville (V)**

We only allow vegan foods on the property at Rooterville, out of respect for the animals.

### **Sanctuary One**

As the United States' first Care Farm, Sanctuary One's mission is to be a refuge for animals and a healing place for people while promoting environmental stewardship. We have adopted an animal-friendly food policy to emphasize the value of all life forms and recognize that all creatures are sentient beings deserving of compassion, respect, and care.

### **Sacramento SPCA**

It is the policy of the Sacramento SPCA to provide only vegetarian or vegan food options when hosting events or meetings in the name of the SPCA. We recommend but do not control food options when outside organizations are the major host/sponsor of events or meetings.

### **St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center**

St. Hubert's believes that all animals should be treated humanely and with compassion throughout their lives. St. Hubert's supports the five freedoms for any animal kept by man – from homes to farms: Freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress. Animal agriculture has changed drastically over the last 70 years. Intensive confinement systems that deny animals from engaging in natural behaviors and fail to meet their most basic behavior needs, inhumane transport and billions of animals slaughtered have become commonplace as has the genetic manipulation of animals that causes rapid growth, pain and suffering. St. Hubert's recognizes its responsibility to raise awareness of welfare issues related to raising, housing, care, transportation, and slaughter of animals raised or caught for food as part of its animal welfare advocacy work and shall encourage welfare conscious consumerism, reduced animal product consumption, and shall advocate for more humane farming methods. Consistent with its mission, St. Hubert's events shall be vegetarian.

### **St. Martin's Animal Rescue**

St. Martin's Animal Rescue and Advocacy strives to inspire respect and compassion for all animals, advocate for their interests and welfare, and instill in our community that all living beings have a right to be treated humanely. Recognizing that animals raised for food may be subjected to many forms of cruelty and inhumane treatment, any organizational event adheres to serving only vegetarian fare and we are increasingly moving to a plant-based menu.

### **San Francisco SPCA**

The San Francisco SPCA is proud to support the Food for Thought campaign because we think that anytime that a compassionate food choice is made, it's a victory for animals, people, and the environment.

### **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter supports the **Food for Thought** program because we want to cultivate an awareness of and a respect for all animals who share this world with us. It has become generally accepted that companion animals are sentient beings that have feelings. We wish to extend that understanding to animals that are raised, trapped, or slaughtered for food. We do not feel that it is appropriate for us to serve meat at any official functions of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.

### **South Florida Wildlife Center**

We have a vegan policy here—all events, even staff luncheons, etc.

### **scaLA**

scaLA has only provided vegetarian/vegan food for our events for the past 20 years.

### **SPCA Montreal**

We serve vegan food only at events. We do not allow our name to be associated with fundraising events in which animal products are served.

### **State Humane Association of California**

Several years ago, the State Humane Association of California adopted a meat-free menu for our Board meetings and events for which we are the sole sponsor. We believe that a meat-free menu is consistent with our mission and promotes an awareness of the pain and suffering that often accompanies the keeping and slaughter of animals for food.

### **Stray Cat Alliance**

All our events are vegan and we are fortunate to have the wonderful Chef Tanya Petrovna create delicious food for our annual gala.

### **Sunny Meadow Sanctuary**

Each and every farm animal at Sunny Meadow was spared from going to a slaughterhouse and is now living a peaceful, happy life here at the sanctuary. Being vegans ourselves, there is no way that we would ever let anyone eat or use our animals for any purpose.

### **Sweet Binks**

Sweet Binks Rabbit Rescue: As advocates for one of the most multi-purposed animals on the planet (meat, fur, testing, pets), Sweet Binks has adopted a vegan/vegetarian menu for any event conducted by us. Most all of our volunteers are vegetarian/vegan and support compassion and humane treatment to all living species.

### **Tails of Hope**

We teach respect for all animals, including farm animals, animals used in research and those living in the wild. To that end, in our humane education work, we show people how to live harmoniously with other species and the environment. While we respect individual choice in food and clothing, we never serve meat or include products made from animal byproducts at Tails of Hope events.

### **Tender Care Animal Rescue**

We believe that a meat-free menu is consistent with our mission and promotes an awareness of the pain and suffering that often accompanies the keeping and slaughter of animals for food as these animals often live in inhumane and even torturous conditions. Given the above, food served at all Tender Care board and volunteer events, the food that Board Members and /or volunteers are reimbursed for while traveling, Board member choices when meeting with donors, and food served at any other Tender Care Animal Rescue related events should be vegetarian, and whenever feasible, entirely plant-based.

### **Ulster County SPCA**

Our policy is to serve only vegetarian meals or refreshments, and in certain events we do provide a vegan option.

### **VegFund (V)**

We continue our meat-free selections at our fundraisers, and have no intention of that ever changing. ... Food for Thought is a great campaign that encourages shelters and humane societies to show compassion to ALL animals by adopting a plant-based food policy.

### **Vine Sanctuary (V)**

VINE Sanctuary strongly supports the Food for Thought campaign and is grateful to Animal Place for organizing this essential initiative. We urge all shelters and sanctuaries to be mindful of the effects of all of our choices, avoiding the products of human slavery and environmental despoliation as well as all products of animal exploitation.

### **VT-CAN! Vermont Companion Animal Neutering (V)**

VT-CAN! has adopted an official vegan only menu policy for all events involving food and vegan only policy for any fundraiser involving food and new products.

### **Washington Humane Society (V)**

The Washington Humane Society (WHS) believes all animals deserve humane treatment. As part of our mission, WHS provides care to animals of all species, including animals commonly raised for food. WHS believes it would be inconsistent and hypocritical for an organization dedicated to saving animals to serve animal products as food for people. Policy: All food purchased by WHS for events and meetings will be vegan. Additionally, for events featuring or connected to WHS where food is funded by another party, all efforts will be made to have humane food choices, and WHS will recommend vegan food.

### **Whatcom Humane Society**

Recognizing that animals raised for food may be subjected to many forms of cruelty and inhumane treatment, the Whatcom Humane Society has committed itself to serving only vegetarian foods at any events that are sponsored or funded by WHS.

### **Windsor/Essex County Humane Society**

The Windsor/Essex County Humane Society strives to inspire respect and compassion for all animals, advocate for their interests and welfare, and instill a belief in our community that all living beings have a right to be treated humanely. As such, we will ensure that vegetarian and/or vegan food options are available and identified at all WECHS run events. We recommend the same but do not control food options when outside organizations are the primary host or sponsor of an event.