

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND ANIMAL RIGHTS
Animal Welfare Directorate

**AHWD/AW/66/2024: Call for Expression of Interest for the Participation in the
Provision of Dry Cat Food to Registered Cat Feeders**

The Animal Welfare Directorate (AWD), within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA), is hereby issuing a Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the participation of animal feed retailers in provision of dry cat food to registered cat feeders.

There is awareness for the need of helping the cat feeders and the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA), on behalf of the Government recognises and is ready to commit itself in helping and supporting registered cat feeders. In an effort to sustain cat feeders mitigating the price increase of cat food, the Maltese Government, through AWD has launched a Cat Feeders Scheme. For this scheme Local Councils will distribute vouchers to registered cat feeders which can be exchanged for dry cat food. The vouchers will be issued in values of Euro €50. Feed retailers interested in participating in the scheme will be able to accept such vouchers and be reimbursed accordingly by the Animal Welfare Directorate. Only those feed retailers who participate in this expression of interest will be eligible to be reimbursed for the vouchers. The total value of this scheme is €350,000 and the vouchers will be redeemable until the 30th October 2024.

Participating feed retailers are invited to submit their confirmation to accept vouchers for providing cat food. By expressing interest in participating in the Scheme, the feed retailers will be confirming:

1. Readiness to accept vouchers that will be presented by pet adoptees during 2024;
2. Willingness to use any software applications indicated by AWD in order to upload verify the vouchers presented by the feeders for audit and verification purposes; and
3. Claiming the vouchers on the relevant verification platform to the AWD within specified timeframes.
4. The feed exchanged for vouchers must be produced by feed business operators duly registered or approved within the European Union in line with Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene.
5. The feed must be dry pet food marketed and labelled in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed or Regulation (EU) 2023/2419 on the labelling of organic pet food.

6. That only the following type of dry cat compound feed may be exchanged for vouchers:
- a. **complete feed:** compound feed which, by reason of its composition, is sufficient for a daily ration;
 - b. **complementary feed:** means compound feed which has a high content of certain substances but which, by reason of its composition, is sufficient for a daily ration only if used in combination with other feed;
 - c. **feed intended for particular nutritional purposes:** means feed which can satisfy a particular nutritional purpose by virtue of its particular composition or method of manufacture, which clearly distinguishes it from ordinary feed. Feed intended for particular nutritional purposes does not include medicated feedingstuffs within the meaning of Directive 90/167/EEC;

Participation in the scheme will be on a voluntary basis. Participant shall be confirmed via return email. Training and guidelines concerning the use of upload system for vouchers will be provided by the Animal Welfare Directorate.

Interested feed retailers may register their interest by filling the form hereunder and by sending via email on awschemes.mafa@gov.mt by not later than 12th July 2024. In case of any queries, you may contact the Animal Welfare Directorate via an email sent to awschemes.mafa@gov.mt

Financial Identification form for the Participation in the Cat Feeders Scheme	
Name of Feed Retailer:	
VAT No:	Tel/Mob Nos:
Address:	
E-mail address:	
IBAN No:	