

Grant ID: 42

Title of Proposal: Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Suncoast Humane Society, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Suncoast Humane Society, Inc.

Person Submitting Proposal: Phillip R. Snyder

Organization Business Address: 6781 San Casa Drive

State: FL

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-474-7884

Cell: 941-204-1204

Website Address: www.humane.org

Position: Executive Director

City: Englewood

Zip: 34224

Fax: 941-475-3877

Email Address: philsnyder@humane.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/08 **End:** 12/31/08

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,342,314.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,353,005.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 26 Part Time: 2

Number of Active Volunteers: 260

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 400.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Executive Director, former employee of The HSUS

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): N/A

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Connie Ellis	Member	941-497-2183	Retired	conja68@yahoo.com
David Walker	Secretary	941-662-0848	Retired CPA	walkersdj@yahoo.com
Doris Bishop	Member	941-964-0473	Retired Speech Therapist	squeakiesmom@gmail.com
Kathryn Rohrbach	President	941-473-3711	Financial Servs. Prof	kathyrohrbach@msn.com
Nancy Sholley	Member	941-964-2414	Retired	psholley@comcast.net
Rich Emch	Member	941-743-4616	EVP-Lending, Englewood Bank	remch@englewoodbank.com
Thomas Carlos, DVM, MS	Member	941-474-8881	Veterinarian	englewoodanimalhealth@verizon.net
Wendy Jankoski	Vice President	941-475-5311	Financial Advisor	passerd@aol.com
William Dudley	Treasurer	941-483-3920	CPA/Healthcare Consultant	steve@wsdudley.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

2841 **cats and** 1726 **dogs were admitted.**

692 **cats and** 710 **dogs were adopted.**

2029 cats and 660 dogs were euthanized.

526 cats and 375 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

Suncoast Humane Society offers a variety of programs and services to ensure the wellbeing and humane treatment of animals; these include a Foster Care Program, placing sick or younger pets into suitable foster homes, taking care of their medical and behavioral needs until they are deemed suitable for adoption. Pet Adoptions are processed through trained adoption counselors ensuring the most appropriate placement is made. Low-cost spay/neuter and micro-chipping is offered to the public and Suncoast Humane Society has a variety of Humane Education programs including Pet Therapy, Critter Camp, Critters in the Classroom and Doggie Tales, designed to encourage and improve children's reading skills. Other programs include offsite adoptions, volunteering, lost and found services. Suncoast Humane Society is a designated emergency shelter. More recently, in response to the current financial climate, Suncoast Humane Society has introduced a low cost preventive care programs, targeted to assist low income families maintain the necessary vaccinations and treatments for their pets. Another program which we are particularly proud of is our Pet Pantry program, partnering with other civic organizations to deliver pet food to families who are struggling to provide for their pets.

If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption?

Yes

If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption?

If not all, describe your sterilization policies and procedures for assuring sterilization after adoption:

Give additional background information on your organization's programs as they relate to this application and the qualifications of the personnel who will be in charge of this program. Show that you have the ability to carry out this program.

Established in 1971, Suncoast Humane Society "exists to reduce the number of homeless animals and improve the quality of human and animal life through their companionship." Suncoast Humane Society is an open admission shelter committed to its policy of never turning any animal away. The support and confidence of the community has continued to grow and as a need for additional services is recognized, Suncoast Humane Society has successfully implemented the necessary programs to meet these needs. Phillip Snyder, Executive Director has over thirty years' experience in the animal care and control field. This includes fifteen years as Director of two regional offices of the Humane Society of the United States and Executive Director of five local humane societies and animal control organizations. Skilled in organization and program development in all areas of animal sheltering, Phillip Snyder is especially qualified and experienced in the implementation of new programs, most particularly, low/no-cost spay and neuter programs. With direction from Phil Snyder, and with the addition of a qualified Veterinarian, this initiative is staffed for success.

If you currently have a program for sterilization of cats and/or dogs, describe your current level of funding and productivity and why additional resources are needed?

The Low-cost Spay/Neuter program of Suncoast Humane Society is in its infant stages. Currently we collaborate with Animal Rescue Coalition and pay the costs of using their mobile spay neuter service once a month. A recent grant has afforded us the opportunity to hire a full time veterinarian to move us towards a more comprehensive program. Additional resources are necessary to subsidize the surgery costs as well as additional promotional and administrative costs. The demand for this service is apparent in the fact that we currently have a waiting list of over 100, and this without a comprehensive promotional or marketing effort. We will continue to partner with Animal Rescue Coalition enabling us to take their mobile clinic into communities that have no access to affordable pet-sterilization surgeries and little resources for transportation. By making the services more accessible to those who need it most, we believe, we will have a greater impact in helping to reduce the pet overpopulation problems felt by our surrounding communities.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Portions of 3 Counties; Charlotte, Sarasota and Lee. Cities include Englewood, North Port, Port Charlotte, Boca Grande, Rotonda, Placida, Venice, Laurel and Nokomis
Total human population in target area:	261986
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9.9
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	79390
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	65497
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	43665
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
The above numbers have been estimated based on the fact that Suncoast Humane Society is in a unique situation in that it is based in a town which covers portions of three counties. The numbers were arrived at by taking 50% of Sarasota and Charlotte County.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
The lack of affordable resources, coupled with the lack of education in responsible pet ownership is the greatest source of cat and dog overpopulation in the area.	
What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area and in what ways are these resources currently insufficient to meet community needs?	
Outside of private veterinarian clinics, we are only aware of Animal Rescue Coalition offering any form of reduced cost pet sterilization services to the public in portions of our target area. Suncoast Humane Society has a service area of over 450 square miles and each year more than 4,000 animals are brought to the shelter. If all area animal shelters offered affordable spay & neuter services, it would still, unfortunately, be many years before the communities' needs are adequately met. The service area of Suncoast Humane Society does not interfere with the service area of Animal Rescue Coalition.	
Florida Animal Friend is highly supportive of proposals that are focused on animal populations that are identified as substantial sources of dog or cat overpopulation rather than being diluted over too broad of a geographic area or diverse animal populations. Describe the specific target animal population of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:	

- Pets in low-income families**
- Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources**
- Pit bull dogs**
- Feral cats**
- Special spay/neuter event**
- Other**

Objectives

What do you hope to accomplish with these funds (objectives should be specific and quantifiable)?

The grant request will assist in funding the expansion of our spay/neuter program. It is anticipated that approximately 1,500 animals will be sterilized in the first year, with the amount increasing gradually to over 2,500 pet sterilization surgeries being performed by Suncoast humane Society each year. As it is unlikely for there to be a decreased need for these services in the foreseeable future, it is anticipated that Suncoast Humane Society will continue to expand the program in future years.

How does this program increase the number of sterilization surgeries above the existing baseline?

As this low-cost spay/neuter program is still in its first year, the initial increase from the existing baseline for will be 100%

Methods

What criteria will you use to determine eligibility for the program?

This is a need-based service and eligibility will be based on income, offering the services at a minimal cost (\$25) to residents at or below the 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. Proof of income is required.

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience.

Although currently the program has been filled to capacity with very little promotion, as we expand the program it will be advertised through a variety of media including radio, newspapers and distribution of flyers in local libraries, schools and clubs.

How will you address barriers to full use of the program such as transportation, illiteracy, and cultural hurdles?

Suncoast Humane Society has partnered with ARC to bring the mobile surgery unit into the areas that need the services most. In addition we have a van which, upon request, will be used to transport individual animals to a surgery location if the resident does not have access to transportation. Suncoast Humane Society has wonderful relations with area libraries which will assist if and when we are faced with illiteracy or cultural hurdles.

Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe the vehicles, methods for confinement, personnel training, liability releases used to assure the safety of the animals and handlers.

Although it is expected that the transportation of the animals will 99% of the time be by the client, Suncoast Humane Society staff or trained volunteers may pick up animals from residents with disabilities and with no access to transportation. The vehicle is a 2006 Ford van which has been specially equipped for the transportation of animals. Staff and volunteers are thoroughly trained and are insured as drivers and covered under Suncoast Humane Society's liability insurance.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

What arrangements have you made with veterinarians to perform the surgeries?

Suncoast Humane Society has recently contracted a full-time veterinarian as Director of Medical Services.

Veterinary Practices

Fee Range

What is the fee range to be paid for spay and neuter and what is the distribution to be paid by the client vs. the grant program? Keep in mind that Florida Animal Friend grant funds may only be used for costs directly associated with sterilization surgery (including anesthesia and pain control) and not for other items such as vaccines, testing, licensing, and capital purchases.

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$60.00
Range for Female Cats	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$70.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$95.00

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked:

Required Yes, Fee to client No

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
Examination	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabbies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$8.00
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$8.00
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$7.00
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$8.00
Licensing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

The low-cost spay neuter program charges a basic fee for anyone who qualifies based on their earnings at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. The fees for the additional services are based on research of similar programs in a 100 mile radius, along with considering the economy and our own location.

Is this a voucher program? If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

N/A

Other Information

Provide any additional information that will help the grant selection committee understand how the program will operate to achieve its goals.

There are numerous issues imposed on our community due to pet over population; primarily is the economic burden of providing humane care for lost, abandoned and nuisance animals. To this end, Suncoast Humane Society's recently introduced low-cost spay and neuter program is aimed at pet owners who have limited resources. Suncoast Humane Society has been fortunate to receive a grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. This grant has afforded us the opportunity to hire a full time contract veterinarian to perform low-cost sterilization surgeries at our shelter. Funds from this Florida Animal Friend grant request will primarily be for the medications and surgery supplies needed for the surgeries. Suncoast Humane Society, partnering with Animal Rescue Coalition, who have a mobile surgery unit, will perform off-site sterilization surgery. This outreach initiative will render this valued service more accessible to those residents in surrounding areas, especially North Port, who are either not capable or who cannot afford to travel to Suncoast Humane Society's premises. As the program progresses, and funding is in place, we will continue

to assess the needs of the community and the best delivery of the program to all communities in our service area.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 900 **Dogs:** 600

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$25,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$17.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for:

This grant will cover the direct program cost of sterilization surgery. Additional costs will include: promotion and advertising expenses, vehicle costs, and administrative costs. These costs have been funded through separate sources which included the hiring of a full-time veterinarian and support vet-tech.

Timeline

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding. Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. Funding for accepted projects will be available after August 1, 2009.

Projected start date: 08/01/09/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/10

Future Funding

Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having plans beyond "seeking funds from other funders" enhances the chances of receiving this grant.

With increased education and public awareness, future funding for the delivery of these services will certainly be attainable through special fundraising events, direct mail campaigns, private and corporate donations. In addition, Suncoast Humane Society is offering a preventive care program and funds from this program will help to offset these costs.

Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

Applicants selected for funding are expected to publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program via press releases, newsletters, website links, etc. In addition, they are expected to promote the sales of license plates so that additional spay/neuter grants can be funded. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate.

The Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate is currently displayed in our lobby. In addition we have a link to the Florida Animal Website on our high profile website; www.humane.org. Newsletters, with 8,000 printed each issue, will encourage supporters and readers to purchase the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate and help to reduce the number of unwanted pets. In addition, SHS has three thrift stores located in Venice, Englewood and North Port. The License Plate will be displayed and promoted at each of these stores.