

Grant ID: 1489

Title of Proposal: Free Feral

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$24,970.00

Check Payable To: Clay County Humane Society, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Clay County Humane Society, Inc.

Website Address: www.ClayHumane.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Linda Welzant

Position: Executive Director

Agency Head: Linda Welzant

Agency Head Email: LWelzant@ClayHumane.org

Organization Business Address: 2230 Filmore Street

City: Orange Park

State: FL

Zip: 32065

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-276-7729

Fax: 904-276-4236

Cell: 904-626-1267

Email Address: LWelzant@ClayHumane.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/14 **End:** 12/31/14

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,095,512.13

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,123,805.83

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 21 Part Time: 2

Number of Active Volunteers: 51

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 50.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Past recipient

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013 Year(s) denied/incomplete:

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other
- TNR Group
- Rescue Group

Spay/Neuter Services

Rescue Group

Other

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Bob Ehrenberg	Vice President	904-264-9377	IT Specialist	bobdpa@bellsouth.net
Christine Keyworth	Director	904-272-6733	Speech Therapist	chrisalis1@earthlink.net
Douglas Havens	President	904-272-4311	Retired Military	dhavens5@bellsouth.net
Gerald Milan	Treasurer	904-272-5130	Retired Corrections Officer/ Military	jerrymilan@comcast.net
Judy Stebler	Director	904-272-0887	Retired Military	jstebler@aol.com
Linda Lake	Secretary	904-910-2440	Office Manager	LLake0218@bellsouth.net
Lisa Lemen	Director	904-282-7422	Financial Officer	lemenhead@bellsouth.net
Luann O'Neal	Director	904-504-6179	Sales Manager	loneal@onealsteel.com
Mary	Fortson	904-284-1393	Registered Nurse	mcfortson@bellsouth.net

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

43 cats and 11 dogs were admitted.

43 cats and 11 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

4968 cats and 1205 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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.

For 37 years, the Clay County Humane Society has been on the front line in battling the pet overpopulation problem. Our skilled veterinarians and support staff often perform greater than 200 surgeries per week and are ever dedicated to our mission of ending the senseless euthanasia of healthy cats in our shelters.

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?

Since Clay Humane opened its clinic's doors in 1991, spaying and neutering has been our top priority. Over 86,000 animals have been sterilized at significantly reduced prices. However, it was realized that even with reduced costs there was still a significant population that remained unreached. In response, Clay Humane launched its most aggressive approach to the pet overpopulation problem - completely FREE cat sterilizations. Since the program's inception in October 2013, 7011 cats have been spayed or neutered at no cost to the owners/ caregivers, including 1476 ferals. Because the program has no expiration, requires no special qualifying, offers a no appointment necessary day dedicated to ferals, and has been widely publicized, we have been able to reach the previously "unreachable" populations in our community. As only the second such program in existence in the country, our free cat sterilization campaign has faced overwhelming demand. We have increased our daily surgical intake and more than tripled the total number of cat spays and neuters performed in previous years through our efforts, and still have hundreds of "needy" patients scheduled for the coming weeks and months. Because this program is supported by our wellness clinic, private donations, grants, and fundraisers, we still remain limited in the numbers we can perform and the time our veterinarians and staff can take away from those supporting services. Funding from Florida Animal Friend would help offset the

financial constraints created by self-funding a program of this magnitude.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Northeast Florida (to include Clay, Duval, Saint Johns, Putnam, and Nassau Counties...focus on Clay County)
Total human population in target area:	967,000
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9.8%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	293031
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	241750
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	161167
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unavailable for total area
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unavailable for total area
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unavailable for total area
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unavailable for total area
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
n/a	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Our community is a mostly rural area comprised of middle to low-income families. Few sterilization programs exist in the community capable of serving those whose budgets do not allow for even reduced rate care. Our program targets these populations and provides an alternative to unwanted litters, shelter surrenders, and/or increasing feral numbers.	
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?	
Private veterinary clinics are available in the area, but tend to be unaffordable for the target population. Additionally, the few free programs that have been available are limited in the numbers they can perform because of program qualifications, appointment backlogs, and limited funding.	
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:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

TNR Managed Colony Feral Cat Program/Community Cats (Free-Roaming and/or Owned) Program

Define the precise boundaries of the colony or targeted area, including estimate of square miles.

Our primary focus remains feral colonies in our own county, but we extend our free services to known colonies in surrounding counties, as well. With previous Florida Animal Friend funding, we were able to sterilize every cat in 30 known Clay County colonies (over 800 cats), plus an additional 650 community ferals. Our goal over the next 12 months, specific to feral cats, is to continue spay/neuter efforts for 34 recently identified colonies in Clay County (211 known cats), Putnam County (376 c

What is the criteria used for determining the target area(s) and/or eligibility for this program?

Our focus is colonies/ free-roaming populations within our own county, but Clay Humane's goal is to provide free sterilizations for ANY cat from any area. There are no eligibility requirements, aside from caregivers assuming responsibility for future care/ oversight of colonies/ individual ferals. We both actively seek out colonies in the area and are solicited by other organizations/ individuals for help with feral populations.

Describe whether the targeted area is rural, suburban, or urban. Is it commercial, residential, agricultural, or a designated special land use?

The specific colonies we are targeting are primarily in urban/ commercial areas. The individual free-roaming cats primarily come from residential and rural areas.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 881

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 117

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 764

For TNR program, describe the ability to maintain lifelong care for remaining cats, commitment level of volunteers/organizations, etc.

The volunteers who currently serve as caregivers of these identified colonies/ individual free-roaming populations, have been doing so for many years. Spaying/neutering these cats will help the colonies become more manageable and eventually disappear. We have assisted in the placement of many "handle-able" cats into homes, and will continue to work with these caregivers to ensure that all cat populations are tended to appropriately.

Detail any public education/outreach, adoption programs, etc.

Do current city/county ordinances address TNR or free-roaming cats?

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

Following lengthy debates in 2013 before our County Commissioners, the combined efforts of area animal welfare organizations to prevent the mass trapping and euthanasia of Clay County feral colonies, TNR measures were approved for noted and future managed colonies.

(NOTE: FAF will not fund any program this is inconsistent with local ordinances.)

For TNR program, list any groups or government agencies who support this TNR effort:

We are supported in our efforts by many rescue groups, our local animal care/ control agency, and by many cat advocates. We assist Clay County Animal Care and Control in their TNR efforts and work together to reduce cat intake in the shelter toward a goal of a no-kill community.

Describe any effort to lessen the negative impact on local wildlife.

As licensed wildlife rehabilitators, we have seen first hand the negative impact roaming cats can have on wildlife. AS such, it is our goal to eliminate - through adoption/ relocation programs)cat colonies existing on public wooded lands first. Simply sterilizing and controlling cat populations in colonies (eventually elimination through attrition) will make a significant difference over time, as well.

Describe efforts that will be made to mitigate current or potential nuisance issues.

Over the past 12 months, we have been called upon to assist with colonies on commercial lands that were facing euthanasia due to nuisance complaints. In these cases, Clay Humane first performed free sterilizations, then provided colony education to property owners, assisted with "re-homing" adoptable cats, and relocated others to private property as required. Our first measure is always to educate land owners on colony management.

Will the cats be ear-tipped? Yes

Will the cats be microchipped? No

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

The free cat sterilization program had an exceptionally successful first year that we expect to only grow improve in 2015. While we understand the financial undertaking is great, we know that this program is absolutely essential to winning the battle against overpopulation. Our staff and veterinarians are committed to continuing these efforts until no more cats are surrendered in our shelters or abandoned by the roadside.

Objectives

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

Due to the seemingly endless growth of cat populations in our area despite our dedicated past efforts, the Clay County Humane Society launched a FREE cat sterilization program in October 2013. This permanent program provides free sterilization of any cat, owned or feral, with no limit, no qualifying for eligibility, and no hidden costs. We increased the number of surgeries performed each day and began offering one day each week dedicated solely to feral spays/neuters with no appointment needed. Since its inception, 7011 cats have been sterilized at no cost to colony caregivers, cat owners, or rescue groups. With these funds, we will continue focused efforts on specific area colonies (764 targeted currently), on an additional 650 individual free-roaming cats, and on 1000 owned cats in low-income households.

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

The current number of free cat spay/neuter surgeries is determined by the amount of funding our wellness clinic, private donations, and fundraising monies can support. Funding from Florida Animal Friend will allow us to increase our current baseline by 2500.

Methods

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

One must simply have an intact cat or manage a feral colony to be eligible.

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

This program is heavily advertised in our area through social media, organization newsletters, during our "Ask the Vet" segment on the local news morning show, at fairs and education booths, through print and media campaigns organized by our public relations manager, and through word of mouth. Clay Humane has become synonymous with cat spaying/neutering in our community and will continue to market this program until we have reached every cat owner/ care provider.

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

By working cooperatively with local shelters, rescue groups, volunteers, colony care givers, media outlets, and local business owners, we have been able to identify those in need, including feral populations. Together we have been able to trap and transport as needed, and release, maintain, and control the growth of the colonies and, in turn, shelter intake numbers.

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.

The program does not directly involve the transportation of animals by anyone other than the owners/ caregivers. However, we will provide limited transportation through our trained staff if required.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

Our organization has operated a low cost veterinary clinic since 1991. We currently staff three full-time veterinarians, and four relief veterinarians. Our veterinarians share our mission and work tirelessly to achieve our goal of a no-kill community through spay and neuter efforts.

Are they: In-house Private Vet(s) Combination

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Clay County Humane Society, Inc.	2230 Filmore Street	Orange Park	FL	32065	904-276-7729	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$7.05"/>	<input type="text" value="\$7.05"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$11.57"/>	<input type="text" value="\$11.57"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Pain Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Licensing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

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

Each day the Society offers 25 free cat sterilizations (75 ferals on Wednesdays). Costs associated with each cat spay/neuter includes veterinary exam and surgical time, rabies vaccination, anesthesia, pre and post-op pain medication, and surgical materials. Additional vaccinations, testing, and preventative treatments are always recommended, but not required. This funding will support the sterilization of 2500 cats for free - the 764 currently targeted (plus an additional 86 from newly identified colonies), 650 free-roaming community cats, and 1000 owned cats of low income families. (Expect continued trend of 65% female/ 35% male)

Is this a voucher program? No

If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

For your voucher program, how have you determined the capacity of the veterinarians listed above to handle the projected capacity?

Will you have the ability to report the number of vouchers issued and the percentage that result in S/N surgeries?

Community Collaboration

To assure the success of your program, are there any local groups (such as rescue groups, animal control agencies, TNR groups, local businesses, local media, social service agencies, etc.) other than your organization and your cooperating veterinarians who are committed to assist?

Yes No

Please list them and detail their level of involvement with the proposed effort.

Name	Level of Involvement
CatBugs Rescue	CatBugs is one of the most recognized cat rescue groups in Clay County, and as such, has knowledge of most area colonies. In the past, CatBugs volunteers has helped identify, trap, and transport colony cats for caregivers.
Clay County Animal Care and Control	As our county animal control agency, CCACC and Clay Humane have a long history of collaborative efforts. Understanding the mutual benefits of spaying and neutering programs in our community, CCACC supports and promotes our efforts.

Other Information

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

Now in its second year, our free cat sterilization program has seen greater success than we initially expected. Our target of 2000 free cat spays and neuters last year was exceeded by 2968 and was an increase of 275% over the previous year's numbers. We are confident in our ability to grow these numbers even more in 2015-2016.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 2500 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,970.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$10.00

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

Expenses not included in the grant are at owner/care providers' expense. For those expenses that are necessary, but not affordable to owner/ care provider, the Society has a longstanding indigent care program funded through private donations and allocated funds from our wellness clinic budget.

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for (for example, vaccines, microchipping, ear notching, etc.):

Expenses not included in the grant are at owner/care providers' expense. For those expenses that are necessary, but not affordable to owner/ care provider, the Society has a longstanding indigent care program funded through private donations and allocated funds from our wellness clinic budget.

Describe any other funding sources for this program, i.e. other grants, targeted fundraising efforts, budget allocation, etc.

Allocated funds generated via our wellness clinic, private donations from a "Spay it Forward" donation campaign, and fundraising events throughout the year currently fund the sterilization program. A zip code targeted grant from PetSmart Charities also helped offset costs for 900 owned cats in our area in 2014. In reference to the following question, 100% of the requested sterilization numbers in this application will be funded by this grant. In terms of the total project: funding from this grant will cover nearly 50% of our goal for the entire year.

What percent of the total cost of the program would this projected grant cover?

100%

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: 08/01/15/ **Projected end date:** 06/01/16

Unexpended funds

Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project.

Requests for extensions

Requests for time extensions are discouraged and not often granted. If it is imperative to request an extension, such request must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. It is FAF's policy to seldom grant more than a 30-60 day extension.

Failure to submit reports and requests within the required time period will impact your agency's future grant applications.

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

***Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having sustainable plans including other grants, local donations and other services generating revenue enhances the chances of receiving this grant.**

As mentioned, our wellness clinic has supported our spay and neuter efforts since our clinic's inception in 1991. Although we have had budgeting shortfalls, the revenue loss has been relatively minor considering the amount of free sterilization services we have given away as part of this program. This is because private donations, fundraising, and clinic revenue has consistently increased as a result of the recognition and publicity generated by the success of this program.

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 and promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate via press releases, newsletters, website links, social media, etc. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate. Grantees are required to submit documentation of promotional endeavors.**

Promotion of the license plate can be found on our website, Facebook page, in print media generated by the popularity of the program, and on the walls in our clinic. We also promote the Florida Animal Friend license plate at educational booths at local fairs, community events, and through community groups. Funding is celebrated in our local newspapers, during our "Ask the Vet" segment on the local news morning show, and in every print item referring to the program.