

Grant ID: 1478

**Title of Proposal:** Public Assistance Spay Neuter Programs

**Agency Type:** Municipal

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Lee County Animal Services

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Lee County Domestic Animal Services

**Website Address:** www.leelostpets.com

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Nicole Ferguson

**Position:** Veterinarian

**Agency Head:** Mack Young

**Agency Head Email:** MYoung@leegov.com

**Organization Business Address:** 5600 Banner Drive

**City:** Fort Myers

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 33912

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-533-7387

**Fax:**

**Cell:**

**Email Address:**

### Agency Details

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/13 **End:** 09/30/14

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,099,341.35

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$4,391,465.90

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 50 Part Time: 1

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 60

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 240.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous FAF grant recipient.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2007, 2009, 2011 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2014

**Describe your agency:**

#### Services Provided

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

#### Organization Structure:

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

Other Animal Care Trust Fund, Pet Pan

**List your current board of directors:**

**Applicant Qualifications**

**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

**4780 cats and 4683 dogs were admitted.**

**1482 cats and 1566 dogs were adopted.**

**1544 cats and 1494 dogs were euthanized.**

**2755 cats and 1968 dogs were sterilized.**

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

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

No

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

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

Animals that are at minimum 2 lbs and in good condition with no current or past health concerns are sterilized prior to being adopted.

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

If animals that are not deemed healthy enough for sterilization are adopted prior to sterilization, a \$250 deposit is obtained and the animal scheduled to return within 30 days unless veterinary services recommends additional recovery time for that animal. At that time, the veterinarian will ensure that sterilization is scheduled. There are no adopted animals leaving the facility adopted that are never sterilized. The \$250 deposit is refundable once the pet has been sterilized.

**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.**

Lee County has operated spay/neuter programs for the public since 2007. The agency has strived to identify and target the pets most responsible for overcrowding and those populations and areas most in need of free or low-cost services. The veterinary department within Animal Services is headed by a Veterinary/Kennel Manager and 2 full-time shelter veterinarians, 2 surgery veterinary technicians and 2 kennel/euthanasia technicians. Sterilizations are performed Monday through Friday in the clinic from approximately 8:30 am to 12:30 pm depending on volume of cases. Both veterinarians are well-versed in high volume high quality spay neuter techniques and have the ability to perform up 45-60 sterilizations daily during peak kitten season.

**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?**

Our agency currently has a program to provide free public TNR sterilizations as well as low cost sterilization of cats and dogs owned by persons on public assistance. The funding for these programs is contained within the veterinary medical supplies portion of the budget allocated in the animal services budget. Several community veterinarians have expressed interest in participating in TNR sterilizations and there is the ability to create an additional surgery suite to increase the number of TNR surgeries performed on a daily basis. The long-term goal is to perform TNR on a targeted and high volume basis to address the significant community cat overpopulation present in Lee County. Funding and additional resources would be allocated to addressing these targeted programs. The number of surgical procedures performed on site during the last fiscal year was the highest ever performed on site. In addition, 2014 was the first year during which animals were routinely sterilized prior to being placed into adoptions.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Fort Myers Beach, FL
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	6673
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	9.6

<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	2023
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	1669
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	1113
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	unknown
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	unknown
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	unknown
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	unknown

**Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.**  
The numbers appear to approximate very closely our estimated animal population based on the University of California Koret Shelter Medicine statistical worksheet.

**Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:**

The most substantial sources of pet overpopulation in the county are indiscriminate breeding of backyard dogs, whether intentional or not, as well as the abundance of community cats that are not sterilized within the county. Persons routinely feed community cats without sterilizing them, compounding an already large problem in the county. In addition, the lack of readily available low cost high volume high quality spay neuter centers makes it difficult for all residents within the county to have their pets sterilized in a timely manner. A large transient population exists in the city and results in a significant number of owned cats being abandoned in the community.

**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?**

There are insufficient resources within the community to address the sterilization needs. Our agency performs the highest volume of sterilization, including TNR, within the county and our public TNR and public assistance owned animal sterilization are scheduled several weeks in advance. There are not enough high volume high quality centers within the community at this time.

**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  Pit Bull / large breed dogs  TNR managed colonies of feral cats  Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned)  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.**

The city of Fort Myers Beach is 6.2 square miles.

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

All citizens are eligible to utilize this program and we are encouraging citizens to ensure that all members of a cat colony are sterilized in a timely manner to address the overpopulation problem.

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

The targeted area is commercial and residential. Fort Myers Beach is a major tourist destination in the United States and contains several wildlife preserves, where feral cat destruction of wildlife habitats are a concern.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :** 3136

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 1618

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 1366

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

Our cat intake form and our TNR sterilization form state that cats coming through the program have a caretaker in order to ensure that the cats have persons in the community supervising their welfare. A meeting held in February, 2015 with citizens interested in a sustainable TNR program has resulted in the development of a community cat coalition to enable citizens to assist our agency with a more comprehensive TNR program in the future.

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

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

No

**Please explain what is allowed:**

**(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:**

Lee County Domestic Animal Services support a TNR program. In prior years, the county ordinance addressed the TNR program but this has been removed in order to make more efficient changes to enhance the program without requiring the approval of the Board of Commissioners. The City of Fort Myers beach is interested in addressing the community cat overpopulation problem in a humane, targeted and effective manner.

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

Our agency does not endorse the release of cats into local, state or federal wildlife preserves. Feral cats trapped on such preserves are removed and if unable to be relocated through our barn buddy program, are humanely euthanized.

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

Currently, our cat intake form has a questionnaire enabling our agency to determine the reason cats are impounded as well as reasons for which cats may not be returned from where they came. Valid nuisance reasons include the cat's individual safety, the occurrence of a public health concern due to the density of cats around homes, the occurrence of very aggressive individual cats and the presence of cats in close proximity to schools. Education about the importance of sterilizing outdoor owned b

**Will the cats be ear-tipped?** Yes

**Will the cats be microchipped?** Yes

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

The TNR program is evolving from a community wide program to a targeted program addressing high intake regions within the county and is involving citizens interested in helping our agency address these issues.

## Objectives

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

These funds will be utilized to continue sterilizing community cats within the city of Fort Myers Beach with the overall result of attrition of the community cat population in a humane manner over time.

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

This program would provide sterilization for free-roaming cats in the city of Fort Myers Beach. It will extend sterilizations in this

area beyond what current license fee revenue can cover at this time and will be the first targeted TNR program to address an entire city within a fixed period of time.

## Methods

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

Cats must be community cats trapped in the city of Fort Myers Beach.

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

The program will be advertised on our shelter website and Facebook page, as well as advertised through press releases via the city of Fort Myers Beach. The information will be disseminated through the county's volunteer community cat coalition to determine which volunteers are able to assist. Flyers will be placed at the front desk counters in Lost & Found, Adoptions and the Spay Neuter Clinic about this targeted community cat TNR program.

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

Caretakers, citizens and volunteers with the community cat coalition will be primarily responsible for trapping and transporting the community cats to the Spay Neuter clinic at Animal Services and to the private veterinarian providing TNR services to Fort Myers Beach. The caretakers are also responsible for picking the cats up after surgery and releasing them according to our recommended specifications. Most caretakers and pet owners have relatives, friends or neighbors that are able to assist with transportation. We have Spanish-speaking staff that can assist with cultural hurdles and language barriers.

### 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.

Transportation of animals will be performed only on cats that are impounded and the citizen agrees to become the caretaker if that cat is placed through our shelter TNR program in order to save it's life. If the caretaker is unable to pick up the cat in a timely manner after sterilization, a staff member in the clinic will transport and release the cat to its address of origin. This usually occurs several times per week depending on the volume of cats in our TNR room.

## Veterinary Services

### Objectives

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

The surgeries will be performed through a combination of in house sterilization by the shelter veterinarians Nicole Ferguson and JL Shewmaker as well as through a private veterinarian (to be determined) near Fort Myers Beach whom is able to perform high quality high volume sterilization of community cats.

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

### 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	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>

<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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

	<b>Required, Optional, or Not Offered</b>	<b>Fee to Client?</b>
<b>Examination</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$5.00"/>
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
<b>Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Licensing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other</b>	<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 total cost for sterilization is \$35 for a male cat and \$50 for a female cat through the private veterinarian. The grant would pay the \$35 and \$50 respectively toward each surgery through the private veterinarian. The grant would pay \$25 toward each cat, male or female, sterilized through the Spay Neuter Clinic at Animal Services. The community cats going through a TNR program are sterilized, receive a rabies vaccination, are microchipped and ear-tipped. Caretakers are to provide animal services with the specific location for each cat so these can be added to the GIS map currently in place.

**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
City of	

The city of Fort Myers Beach will receive 15 traps from Animal Services, to be returned at the completion of the project, and will establish a TNR program for the citizens living within the city limits at a private veterinary clinic as well as through the Spay Neuter Clinic at Animal Services.

## Other Information

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

The goal of this program is to target high intake areas within the county in order to reduce the intake of cats into our shelter. Adult cats are the most difficult sector to adopt out and a comprehensive, sustainable and measurable targeted TNR program is the best way to ensure a live release for cats that would otherwise not have a positive outcome. Community education is key to assisting caretakers understand the importance of mass trapping of community cats in order to provide sterilization and reduce the numbers of future cats in those affected areas.

## Budget

### **Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 691 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$37.00

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

Rabies vaccines and microchips are not included in the grant and will be paid out of the veterinary supplies budget for Animal Services.

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

Rabies vaccines and microchips are not included in the grant and will be paid out of the veterinary supplies budget for Animal Services.

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

There are no other funding sources at this time. However, our agency is in the process of evaluating applications for targeted TNR grants.

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

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## 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:** 08/15/15/ **Projected end date:** 08/14/16

### **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.**

The goal of this program is to introduce other cities into the importance of performing a targeted, high volume TNR program for community cats and the long-term beneficial effects of this program. Our goal is to have incorporated cities within Lee county fund these programs in a sustainable manner with our assistance and have Animal Services focus our efforts on the unincorporated cities within the county.

## 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.**

LCDAS will promote the license plate by means of regular press releases reporting the success of the program and the need for continued revenue to keep the program going throughout the State of Florida, emails to our extensive contact list and Facebook fans, link on our website for the Florida Animal Friend Plate, inclusion in our department's main news features on Lee County government's website, posters at the shelter, pitches to the media to cover stories about the license plate and the progress of our program through funding from the plate.