

Grant ID: 1493

Title of Proposal: Spay Fernandina

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$10,000.00

Check Payable To: Nassau Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Nassau Humane Society

Website Address: www.nassauhumanesociety.com

Person Submitting Proposal: Tom Christenson

Position: Executive Director

Agency Head: Tom Christenson

Agency Head Email: ednhs@outlook.com

Organization Business Address: 639 Airport Road

City: Fernandina Beach

State: Florida

Zip: 32034

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-321-1647

Fax: 904-491-8411

Cell:

Email Address: ednhs@outlook.com

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$545,364.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$323,897.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 7 Part Time: 9

Number of Active Volunteers: 150

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 85.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Previous grant award (2009), and the license plates

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2009 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2011, 2012

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

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Beth Hughes	President	703-283-0016	Private Attorney	erh1356@me.com
Bob White	Board Member	904-708-1218	Retired - Bank President	REW95205@gmail.com
Dave Coyle	Board Member	904-277-7812	Retired - Airline Captain	coyle-1@att.net
Ed Hardee	Board Member	904-432-7066	Retired - News Editor	mistred@aol.com
Elizabeth Layman	Board Member	904-491-0423	President, Price Layman, Inc.	price.layman@gmail.com
Geoffrey Cross	Treasurer	904-261-3028	CPA, Retired Corporate CFO	cross4712@att.net
John Evans	Board Member	904-310-9986	President, The Denali Group	jevans@denaliusa.com
John Landregan	Board Co-President	904-277-1152	Retired, Corporate CEO	Landregp@bellsouth.net
Kathy Warner	Secretary	904-430-0481	Retired	bobkat1177@att.net
Mike Clower	Board Member	904-261-2217	Builder - Developer	ClowerM@bellsouth.net
Pat Smith	Vice President	904-557-6375	Co-Director, The Chardonnay Foundation	PRSmith@TheChardonnayGroup.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

473 cats and 458 dogs were admitted.

393 cats and 358 dogs were adopted.

25 cats and 17 dogs were euthanized.

402 cats and 399 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?

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.

The NHS has a long established leadership role and relationship with many other groups in the community (see below), who work in close cooperation to provide the most complete and comprehensive services for animals in the community. These groups work with the NHS for the transfer and exchange of specific types of animals. This unique collaboration provides the community with an excellent range of services and potential adoptions of animals since each group generally handles specific types of animals. Our Shelter Director has worked diligently with the County Animal Control Services for the transfer of animals from their shelter to our new and expanded shelter due to our increased capacity and incredible success with adoptions. Because of the collaboration, County Animal Control Services is able to now, for the first time, earn the title of 'no-kill', since they currently do not have to euthanize for space. NHS has a history of managing a number of spay/neuter projects and grants. In 2009, we successfully administered a previous FAF spay/neuter grant in our low-income community, providing surgeries to over 100 pets. In 2012, NHS successfully completed an 18 month grant from PetSmart Foundation for a targeted spay/neuter program that resulted in a significant outcome in an area of the City of Fernandina Beach to counter the overpopulation of pit bulls and pit bull mix dogs. As the contractual provider of Animal Control services in the City of Fernandina Beach the Nassau Humane Society will be able to utilize the City Animal Control Officers to help identify and reach those low-income families who cannot afford fees for such sterilization services. Our Shelter Director is our longest employee, with 9 years of dedicated service that encompasses all shelter responsibilities, including adoption programs, spay/neuter programs, community outreach, budget management, and grant management. Our Executive Director has extensive experience in financial and budget management, operations, and grant management during his many years with community non-profits. He has been the leader in our recent Capital Campaign, which resulted in the building of our new \$2.4 million shelter which opened in November 2014. Because of

his leadership we were able to raise \$1.7 million even before the shelter opened. Our Executive Director oversees all of our operations, including the shelter, all staff, the membership-only Dog Park, our Second Chance store, and is an active member in the community. Our Board of Directors is comprised of a diverse group of dedicated community members from many areas of expertise, including grant writing and management, corporate management, local business owners, news media, and others.

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?

Area residents are fully and solely responsible for the spaying and neutering of their pets. A recent community-wide grant from PetSmart, "Spay Nassau", which is administered by the County Animal Control Services (not NHS), is about to terminate. Through a collaboration with NHS, the County Animal Control Services has been able to offer this free spay/neuter program to some of the residents in the area served by NHS. At this point, pet owners who cannot afford spay/neuter surgeries will have no program to help them afford it. Currently, NHS does not have funds for a spay/neuter program to assist pet owners in the community who cannot afford it. Until early 2014, NHS administered a previous grant from PetSmart that targeted pit bulls and pit bull mixes in a specific area of the City where owners could not afford the surgeries. That grant had ended, and we have seen a significant increase in the pet overpopulation. NHS does not have any unrestricted funds that can assist the public with the cost of spay/neuter. Cats' Angels, a local non-profit organization, sponsors a feral cat catch and release spay/neuter program. This is supported solely by donations. Dogs and owned pets are not included in that program. The proposed program for this grant will enable NHS to spay/neuter cats and dogs for which there are no other program services available. First Coast No More Homeless Pets, a non-profit pet clinic located approximately 30 miles away in the next county, is the only location for our residents to obtain low cost spay/neuter services, and transportation is a major issue that prevents our residents from utilizing this available service.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Fernandina Beach, Nassau County 32034
Total human population in target area:	70,576
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9.0%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	21387
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	17644
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	11763
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unk
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unk
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unk
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unk

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Based on the number of puppies and kittens admitted to the shelter in the past 6 months, we estimate that the adult animal population is higher. Within one week this past month, 40 puppies were admitted to the shelter, all of which were the offspring of a single male.

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

National research indicates that nearly 3/4 of pet owners are misinformed about the best time and the benefits of spaying or neutering their pets. During the administering of the previous PetSmart grant, our own community outreach supported this national statistic, and probably demonstrated an even higher rate of misinformation. NHS has many programs that involve community outreach and education, through local schools, community organizations, other non-profit organizations, churches, the Boys and Girls Club, and by providing weekly classes open to the public at our own shelter. We have discovered that in the areas with the most significant overpopulation of dogs and cats, most owners are not only misinformed, but do not have the financial ability to pay for surgeries.

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?

Currently, other than the non-profit services offered for the spaying and neutering of pre-adoption animals taken in by the Nassau Humane Society, residents are fully and solely responsible for the spaying and neutering of their pets. There are many residents who fail to spay or neuter their animals due to inability to pay, and/or a lack of education about the benefits of such action, and the dangers of failing to spay/neuter pets. Cats' Angels, a local non-profit organization, sponsors a feral cat catch and release spay/neuter program. This is supported solely by donations. In these economic times, donations are decreasing. Therefore, funds are limited for this program, dogs are not included, and there is no assistance for low-income families/pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered. The proposed program for this grant will enable NHS to spay/neuter cats and dogs for which there are no other program services available.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 0

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 0

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 0

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

N/A

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:

N/A

(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:

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

Objectives

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

NHS will continue to educate the members of our community about the benefits of spay/neuter and dispels the myths. We believe that our education programs are accomplishing that step to a certain extent. The problem has been being able to provide assistance to pet owners who cannot afford the surgery. Only by taking both steps, can we seriously affect the overpopulation of cats and dogs in our community. Our goal is to complete sterilizations of 150 animals that would not otherwise be sterilized due to the inability of owners to pay. Research in the state and the county demonstrates that where there is an affordable, low-cost, sliding-scale or free sterilization program for pet owners, the stray and feral population has decreased by as much as 95% over just a few years. First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville Florida, under the Direction of Rick DuCharme, has performed more than 100,000 sterilizations since 2002, which has produced a 31% reduction in animal intakes in the county, and a 58% reduction in euthanizations.

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

Since most of our intakes come from the stray and nuisance animal population, particularly large dogs, pit bull and pit bull mix animals, and kittens, we expect that this program will reduce the number of strays. This should also reduce the number of intakes to our shelter. By reducing our own intakes, we can use our space to rescue more animals from other shelters in the area. We already transfer more than 200 animals per year from the County Animal Control shelter, which has reduced their euthanasia rate, and increased the number of sterilizations since we require it for all animals that come through our shelter.

Methods

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

NHS will utilize our adoption coordinator and intake staff at the shelter to determine eligibility. Prospective candidates will need to provide proof of receipt of social services (such as Food Stamp or other financial programs), as well as proof of residency. Local social service organizations and other non-profits that provide services to low-income persons will assist us by verifying the receipt of services. Prospective candidates may also provide other documentation proof, such as tax returns, pay stubs, etc.

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

There are multiple outlets for us to advertise. NHS has a pet food bank at many locations, including our shelter. We already have established collaborations with Micah's Place, Barnabas House, and Cat's Angels. We provide donated food for cats and dogs to these non-profit organizations which serve the homeless population, those in financial need, and house battered women and children. Through these programs we will reach out to those who utilize our pet food bank. We also work closely with all of the local veterinarians, and we will meet with them to explain our program. They will make referrals. In addition, we will advertise in the local newspaper, through local media public service announcements on the radio and television, and by posters at the community locations, recreation centers, and businesses. We will also advertise on our website.

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

We have bilingual volunteers, and volunteers have a background in literacy education. These volunteers have committed to helping NHS with any communication issues we may experience. Our adoption staff are trained to counsel potential adopters, and are able to communicate effectively to overcome cultural obstacles. Since our partner for the surgeries, First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville already collaborates with NHS and the County Animal Control Services by picking up animals for surgeries at these two local facilities and returning after surgery, pet owners have two locations locally where they can bring their pets without having to drive.

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.

N/A

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have a written agreement from First Coast No More Homeless Pets to provide the surgeries for this project at a very low cost. NHS does not have an in-house vet.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
First Coast No More Homeless Pets	6817 Norwood Avenue	Jacksonville	Florida	32208	904-425-0005	<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="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies 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 <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
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 <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
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 <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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:

N/A

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
Barnabas House	Will refer participants in the pet food bank program and their residents (homeless) to the program, and assist with verifying eligibility.
Cat's Angels	Will help to inform the public, distribute education materials, and refer participants to the program.
First Coast No More Homeless Pets	Will inform the public about the program in this area and refer potential participants. Will also provide the surgeries to be performed in their vet clinic.
Nassau County Animal Control Services	Will educate the public, post notices, and distribute information about spay/neuter and this program, and will refer individuals to the program.

Other Information

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

N/A

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 80 **Dogs:** 70

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$10,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$67.00

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

Optional services will be paid by the client if they choose those services. Rabies vaccinations will be required, and if a client cannot pay, NHS will use donated funds to pay for those vaccinations. NHS maintains a restricted fund from donations for such expenses, and interviews to determine the ability to afford this service.

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

Optional services will be paid by the client if they choose those services. Rabies vaccinations will be required, and if a client cannot pay, NHS will use donated funds to pay for those vaccinations. NHS maintains a restricted fund from donations for such expenses, and interviews to determine the ability to afford this service.

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

NHS continues to seek grant funding to expand and sustain these programs. We have had spay/neuter grant funding from various organizations on a regular basis. NHS maintains a restricted fund from private donations that are specifically earmarked by the donor for assistance to low-income pet owners.

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

80%

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: 09/01/15/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/16

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.**

NHS has a board member who works with the Executive Director to continuously identify and seek available grant funding, especially as current grants expire. NHS also conducts various fundraisers throughout the year specifically to maintain a restricted fund to help low-income pet owners by subsidizing a portion of spay/neuter surgery. Local businesses conduct these fundraisers on our behalf and include such events as "NHS night" at local restaurants where a percentage of the nightly revenue is donated, collection cans at all local businesses, and donations from volunteers.

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.**

NHS will promote the license plate program through several methods: (1) press releases to our local media, such as First Coast Living TV programming; (2) advertising in our local newspaper (we have this commitment); (3) our Facebook page (5,000 friends); (4) our website; (5) through our e-mail announcements (8,000 subscribers); (6) and posters which will be displayed at all fundraising events. NHS will bear the cost of this advertising.