

Grant ID: 1649

Title of Proposal: Spay/Neuter to Decrease Shelter Intakes

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: \$24,990.00

Check Payable To: Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Hardee County BOCC Animal Control

Website Address: www.hardeecounty.net

Person Submitting Proposal: Lorie Ayers

Position: Grants Coordinator

Agency Head: MikeThompson

Agency Head Email: bcc@hardeecounty.net

Organization Business Address: 412 W. Orange Street, Room 201

City: Wauchula

State: FL

Zip: 33873

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 863-773-6349

Fax: 863-773-5801

Cell:

Email Address: lorie.ayers@hardeecounty.net

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/14 **End:** 09/30/15

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$138,112.19

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$138,112.19

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 3 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 0

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 0.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We have received grant funding in the past from the Animal Friend Organization.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2006,2008 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2010

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
- TNR Group
- Rescue Group

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Colon Lambert	Board Member	863-773-9430	Realtor	bcc@hardeecounty.net
Mike Thompson	Chairman of the Board	863-773-9430	Business Owner	bcc@hardeecounty.net
Rick Knight	Board Member	863-773-9430	Realtor	bcc@hardeecounty.net
Russell Melendy	Board Member	863-773-9430	Business Owner	bcc@hardeecounty.net
Sue Birge	Board Member	863-773-9430	Realtor	bcc@hardeecounty.net

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

352 cats and 432 dogs were admitted.

21 cats and 137 dogs were adopted.

145 cats and 98 dogs were euthanized.

19 cats and 133 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?

1%

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

Depends if the animal is old enough to be sterilized before adoption.

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

We utilize a voucher program. Animal Services gives the original vouchers to the participating veterinarian at the time of adoption and an appointment for sterilization is scheduled at the time of 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 low-income spay/neuter program planned for this funding would require the applicant to meet certain requirements. A program similar to the voucher program currently in place will be utilized. The County staff includes one Certified Animal Control Officer, one Kennel Technician, the Animal Control Director and Executive Assistant, in addition to the Grants Coordinator, will ensure that the procedures are completed in a timely manner, and that stringent records are kept and reports are provided to detail the interest and success rate of this program for our area.

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?

Hardee County has the highest percentage of persons living below poverty level. Due to the income limitations on many of our citizens the current low-cost spay/neuter program offered by one of three veterinarians in our county is still beyond reach. Hardee County is very rural, which limits the options for veterinarian services as we only have three here in our entire county. Rural communities also have many animal owners even owners that live below poverty level and unable to afford the \$35 spay/neuter services plus vaccinations. This contributes to the many unwanted litters of animals in our county. We believe that if we offered low-income free spay/neuters these citizens living below poverty level will be able to sterilize their animals which will greatly reduce the number of unwanted animals and euthanasias in our county.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Unincorporated Hardee County
Total human population in target area:	17973
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	30.8
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	5447
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	4494
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	2996

Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	352
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	432
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	145
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	98

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

The target animal population could be greater due to the fact that a large area of this rural County is uninhabited and contains wooded areas perfect for breeding and concealment of abandoned and unwanted pets.

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

Hardee County has the highest percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Florida. Due to this, the cost of sterilization is beyond what these citizens can afford.

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 we have three (3) veterinarians in our county. Of these, only one offers a low-cost spay/neuter program at \$35. This would be affordable if that's all they had to pay for, however when you add the cost of vaccinations as most animals that come in for sterilizations have probably never been vaccinated. This drives the total cost for the visit close to \$60-\$80 depending on the required vaccinations. We propose to cover the sterilization expense which would enable the low-income person(s) to afford the vaccinations.

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?

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:

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? No

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)?

The target area has been identified to decrease the number of intakes of stray and unwanted dogs. We have specified dogs because one of the veterinarians in our county already has a free sterilization program for feral and free roaming cats.

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

This program will increase the baseline sterilization surgeries by adding 714 more sterilizations. This would not be possible due to the poverty situations of our animal owners.

Methods

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

Participants must provide proof of residency within the unincorporated Hardee County. Additionally, every animal sterilized must be up to date on the rabies vaccination. Vaccination cost would have to be paid by the dog owner.

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

We will utilize our one local newspaper within our county. We will also promote with flyers to be distributed to local businesses and schools. We will also use social media and advertise on the county's website as well as the Animal Control's website.

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

Currently we have a non-profit partner, Hardee Animal Rescue Team (HART) that is active in our community by participating in local communities events to help educate the importance of spay/neutering.

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.

Not at this time.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We attempt to work with all Veterinarians practicing in Hardee County. Dr. William H. Lovett Jr. has a letter attached to this application to provide his full support for this program.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Hardee Animal Clinic	1927 US Highway 17 N	Wauchula	FL	33873	863-773-2424	<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="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>

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
Rabies 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 <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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:

Grant funds will pay for the spay/neuter surgery as well as pain meds. By eliminating that expense the client should be able to afford the rabies vaccination.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

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

The client will be required to come to our office to apply for a voucher. We issue the voucher and email to the veterinarian's office who contacts the client to schedule the surgery. The voucher stays with us, this eliminates the possibility of the client losing it.

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

Hardee Animal Clinic is committed to go above and beyond to reduce the number of unwanted animals in our target area. This includes increasing their workload to accommodate the increase in spay/neuter surgeries.

Will you have the ability to report the number of vouchers issued and the percentage that result in S/N surgeries?
 Absolutely. All vouchers issued are tracked. With our system, the voucher never leaves our office. We have found this system reduces the number of "lost" vouchers which increases the percentage of successful surgeries completed.

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
HART	Very involved with the mission of educating the public about the benefits of having their animals spayed/neutered. They are very active in the community and on social media with this education.

Other Information

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

Our goal is to reduce the number dog intakes, as well as reduce the number of unwanted and stray dogs in the target area.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 0 **Dogs:** 714

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,990.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$35.00

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

Vaccinations and micro-chipping (optional) will be the responsibility of the pet owner.

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

Vaccinations and micro-chipping (optional) will be the responsibility of the pet owner.

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

None at this time but are searching for other grants and fundraising opportunities.

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: 10/01/16/ **Projected end date:** 09/30/17

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.**

We plan to continually look for grants to assist our target area with spay/neutering services. It has also been our experience that when we initiate a program like this through Animal Friend, local veterinarians take note and have begun programming similar to our Animal Friend projects.

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.**

We will promote the Animal Friend license plate program with all of our efforts by including it on all flyers, advertisements, website, as well as encouraging our collaborators to add to their websites and social media pages.