

Grant ID: 1675

Title of Proposal: Spay/Neuter North Central Florida's At-Risk Dogs

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Alachua County Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Alachua County Humane Society

Website Address: www.alachuahumane.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Margot Wilder

Position: Director of Development

Agency Head: Heather Thomas

Agency Head Email: hthomas@alachuahumane.org

Organization Business Address: 4205 NW 6th Street

City: Gainesville

State: FL

Zip: 32609

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-373-5855

Fax: 352-415-2461

Cell: 954-240-9819

Email Address: margotw@alachuahumane.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/15 **End:** 12/31/15

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$754,791.85

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$859,839.01

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 11 Part Time: 6

Number of Active Volunteers: 684

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 535.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We are a previous grantee.

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

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

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
Cherie Fine	Vice President	352-376-6046	Attorney	cfine@ffplaw.com
Jamie Whiteway	Director	786-356-7804	Attorney	jamiemarie33@gmail.com
Jessica Miller	Secretary	561-251-9623	Social Worker	jmill8@gmail.com
Jessie Stanley	Director	352-372-5391	Veterinarian	jtstanley@gmail.com
Katrina McAfee	Director	352-283-3918	Marketing Coordinator	katrina.mcafee314@gmail.com
Martha Kern	President	352-226-5955	Insurance Agent	marthakern@gmail.com
Robert Hutchinson	Treasurer	352-256-6043	County Commissioner	hutchrk@aol.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

606 cats and 430 dogs were admitted.

557 cats and 407 dogs were adopted.

4 cats and 2 dogs were euthanized.

394 cats and 251 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.

Alachua County Humane Society is focused on ending euthanasia in Alachua County and in our surrounding counties. The organization shelters animals transferred from Alachua County Animal Services (the county's open-admission shelter) and shelters in surrounding counties with a focus on treatable animals slated for euthanasia (such as heartworm positive dogs and underage kittens). ACHS understands that adoptions alone will not end euthanasia and therefore works closely with community low-cost sterilization options, such as Operation Catnip and No More Homeless Pet's Operation Petsnip. As the lead agency for Maddie's Pet Rescue of Alachua County for the past decade ACHS recognizes the importance of and is accustomed to accurate accounting of program statistics. ACHS will be partnering with Operation Petsnip, a high quality, high volume, spay/neuter clinic to perform the surgeries. Operation Petsnip has performed over 25,000 sterilizations in our community (over 4,500 last year) and has confirmed that the organization has the capacity to perform substantially more.

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?

ACHS programs currently focus on companion animals in the home. Unfortunately, dogs over 40 pounds are most at-risk of euthanasia in our county and our surrounding counties. Thus, the Alachua County Humane Society is seeking funding to provide spay/neuter surgeries to dogs over 40 lbs.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Alachua and Surrounding Counties
Total human population in target area:	256,380
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	21.6
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	77691
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	64095

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	42730
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2556
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2729
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	388
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	319
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
As a Maddie's Adoption Project community, Alachua County partners have invested significant resources in data tracking, analysis, reporting and accountability. We believe that the figures shown above are an extremely accurate reflection of our target area animal population.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Our research indicates that the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in Alachua & surrounding counties are free-roaming cats, pit bulls and pit mixes.	
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 practice veterinarians in Alachua County charge market rates for sterilization surgery (ranging from \$120 up to several hundred dollars per pet) and are available to serve middle-to-high-income, motivated pet owners. NMHP's Operation PetSnip program offers \$50-60 cat and \$80-90 dog sterilization. While each of these resources is an important piece in our county's plan to eliminate pet overpopulation, there is a significant service gap for very low-income pet owners and for those who are resistant to the idea of pet sterilization. For the neediest of our county's residents, even \$50 or \$80 is an unmanageable cost, while free surgery may be the only practical incentive for pet owners who are resistant to spay/neuter education.	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input 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.

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? Yes****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)?

Our objective for the requested funds is to provide free sterilization surgery for 295 dogs weighing over 40 lbs belonging to very low income residents and to spay/neuter resistant resident dogs by August 2017.

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

Our objective for the requested funds will increase spay/neuter surgeries by a minimum of 295 surgeries above 2015 levels for Alachua County. It will directly address pet owners who would not otherwise have their pets sterilized due to severe economic need or educational/cultural attitudes. Finally, the program targets the dogs in our community who are most at-risk for euthanasia at our county shelter.

Methods

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

Low Income: We will target residents of Alachua County and the surrounding communities whose household income is at or below 150% of the 2015 federal poverty level. For example, a family of four earning \$35,325 or less would be eligible for free spay/neuter assistance under these guidelines. For documentation of eligibility we will accept current Medicaid, Food Stamp or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cards or a 2014 federal income tax return. Documentation of participation in other low-income programs such as Head Start or Community Action Programming will also qualify. 2: Resistant Populations: We will also conduct special outreach for pet owners that are determined to be culturally resistant to pet sterilization. Outreach staff will work with Alachua County Animal Control to identify neighborhoods or individuals with high rates of impounds or known pet overpopulation issues. Selection factors will be documented in written notes for each recipient under the Resistant Populations criteria.

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

Alachua County Humane Society receives daily requests for free spay/neuter services from pet owners bringing in animals to relinquish and from routine phone/walk-in traffic. We anticipate that these requests will increase once we announce the availability of free surgeries through this project. We will also advertise our program through community flyers, tabling, and outreach to organizations serving our target population. Furthermore, ACHS has a substantial social media following and all services will be advertised through our monthly e-newsletter and social media outlets. Finally, ACHS will employ its traditional outreach efforts including: classified advertising in local print and online media, PSAs and press releases, and public speaking opportunities at community and service club meetings. Alachua County Humane Society possesses the strongest name recognition among animal welfare agencies in our community. More calls for help with animal issues come to our phone lines than any other non-governmental agency. ACHS is uniquely positioned to deliver solutions for animal welfare issues such as spay/neuter.

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

Transportation: for program participants without transportation we will provide pick-up and return of pets and loan of secure pet carriers. 2. Illiteracy: Because our outreach model relies heavily on personal contact and referrals from community partners, we do not anticipate that illiteracy will be a significant barrier to full use of the program. 3. Cultural hurdles: We will work to ensure that our staff and outreach volunteers reflect the cultural diversity of our community. All written program materials will be available in both English and Spanish, and a translation volunteer will be available for Spanish-speaking pet owners.

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.

For those needing transportation assistance, one of our trained animal care staff will use an ACHS animal transport truck to transport dogs in separated, air-conditioned kennels. Our personnel are trained in animal handling and covered by our organization's liability and workers compensation insurance policies. Pet owners requesting transportation will sign a release form prior to pick-up of their pet.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

Our surgery partner for this project will be Gainesville's local Humane Alliance-model community spay/neuter clinic, Operation PetSnip operated by No More Homeless Pets, Inc. Operation PetSnip has signed a written agreement to provide surgeries at the rate of \$80 or 90 per surgery, depending on the gender of the dog.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Operation Petsnip, No More Homeless Pets, Inc.	4205 NW 6th Street, Suite A-2	Gainesville	Florida	32609	352-376-6647	<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="\$80.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
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 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="\$18.00"/>
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="\$20.00"/>
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 Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Licensing Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Ear tipping Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Other Required Optional Not Available No Yes

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

Rabies vaccinations are required, if due. The cost to the client is \$18.00. Medication for tapeworms, hook/round worms and fleas are also available to the client for a nominal fee. E-collars are available for \$15.00.

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
Alachua County Animal Services	Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) staff and director have an ongoing partnership with the Alachua County Humane Society to promote ACHS's programs and humane education efforts in the community. ACAS will also help ACHS's outreach efforts by providing data on the zip codes and neighborhoods where they frequently encounter stray or unaltered animals.
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners	The Board of County Commissioners are dedicated to reducing and ending animal euthanasia in Alachua County. Alachua County Commissioner, Robert Hutchinson, actively serves on several animal welfare Boards and Foundations, embracing pet sterilization as the necessary and positive action to reduce pet overpopulation.
Gainesville Pet Rescue	Gainesville Pet Rescue and the Alachua County Humane Society field hundreds of shelter diversion calls each week. We work together to help target animals who may otherwise end up at the county shelter without the help of free spay/neuter surgeries.
No More Homeless Pets, Inc.	No More Homeless Pets, Inc. partners daily with the Alachua County Humane Society to ensure that all shelter animals are sterilized prior to being adopted. Furthermore, both NMHP and ACHS actively promote the other and refer pet owners for each organization's 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 Alachua County Humane Society will reach out to low-income and spay/neuter resistant pet owners to offer free sterilizations for dogs over 40lbs through our partner clinic, Operation PetSnip. ACHS and our community partners believe that targeting very low income and spay/neuter resistant pet owners is the key to increasing pet sterilization above baseline numbers, as these are the pet owners least likely to ever sterilize their cats and dogs. By providing a special fund for free spay/neuter surgery and facilitating participation through outreach and other support, this project will directly address the most entrenched barriers in our community:

poverty and cultural resistance. At an average cost of only \$85 per surgery, this project is an excellent investment of Florida Animal Friends funding with huge potential to keep the most at-risk dogs out of our county shelters.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 0 **Dogs:** 295

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$85.00

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

Grant funds will be used specifically for the costs of spay/neuter surgery for dogs 40lbs or greater. Alachua County Humane Society will cover the costs of required rabies vaccines using locally-raised funds. Outreach will be conducted by our committed corps of volunteers, including students from the University of Florida. We will also solicit in-kind donations of printing & advertising from community and corporate partners.

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

Grant funds will be used specifically for the costs of spay/neuter surgery for dogs 40lbs or greater. Alachua County Humane Society will cover the costs of required rabies vaccines using locally-raised funds. Outreach will be conducted by our committed corps of volunteers, including students from the University of Florida. We will also solicit in-kind donations of printing & advertising from community and corporate partners.

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

Grant funds will be used specifically for the costs of spay/neuter surgery for dogs 40lbs or greater. The cost of outreach, including printing and staff time will be absorbed by our ongoing Public Education and Outreach programs. We will also solicit cash as well as in-kind donations from the community, businesses and corporate partners. Targeted fundraising efforts will be engaged by the Director of Development on staff including the use of volunteers and interns.

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: 08/01/16/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/17

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 are excited about the potential impact of this project on Alachua County Animal Services' intake and euthanasia statistics and we believe our local community will share this excitement as they see euthanasia rates continue to decline due to the lifesaving results of spay/neuter. We plan to leverage this community enthusiasm to create a permanent fund where donors can make directed gifts. We will continue to use the statistical outcomes of the project period to demonstrate impact and effectiveness and make the case for continued support from our major donors and grant-makers.

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.**

The Alachua County Humane Society is grateful for the investment Florida Animal Friend, Inc. is making on behalf of our state's pets.

We will acknowledge the Florida Animal Friend grant program through a dedicated press releases, in our monthly e-newsletter, and on our website. Furthermore, we will promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate through a permanent display in our adoption center, through links on our website and Facebook page, and during community speaking opportunities.