

Grant ID: 1662

Title of Proposal: Fixin' Pitties and Kitties

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: North Florida PAWS, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: North Florida PAWS, Inc.

Website Address: www.northfloridapaws.net

Person Submitting Proposal: Katie Rooney

Position: Executive Director

Agency Head: Katie Rooney

Agency Head Email: northfloridapaws@windstream.net

Organization Business Address: P.O. Box 9

City: Jennings

State: FL

Zip: 32053-0009

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 386-938-4092

Fax:

Cell: 386-205-2551

Email Address: northfloridapaws@windstream.net

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$58,976.82

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$52,000.82

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 1 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 12

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 80.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We have been supporters of FAF since its inception and we received a reminder e-mail.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

Organization Structure:

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

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

List your current board of directors:

| Name | Title | Phone | Occupation | Email |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Doug Rooney | Vice President | 386-938-5816 | RN, Animal Services Officer | dougrooney@windstream.net |
| Katie Rooney | President/Treasurer | 386-938-4092 | Executive Director | northfloridapaws@windstream.net |
| Scott Rooney | Board of Director Member | 386-855-0031 | 911 Supervisor | scottrooney359@yahoo.com |

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

8 cats and 21 dogs were admitted.

8 cats and 12 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

8 cats and 21 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.

North Florida PAWS was incorporated Feb. 14, 2000, and opened a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in January 2008. 14,038 surgeries and over 200 low-cost vaccination clinics were accomplished in the following 8 years. After closing the clinic for lack of a qualified and reliable veterinarian, PAWS' established a partnership with North Florida Animal Rescue in Wellborn for low-cost surgeries for the humane society and low-income pet owners we assist. Katie Rooney has been the Executive Director for 16 years. Her background includes a BS in Sociology and 23 years experience as a Human Resources Manager with the VA Hospital System. Doug Rooney is the Vice President whose professional background includes experience as an Animal Control Officer, Registered Nurse, and Veterinary Technician. North Florida PAWS has a proven track record of operating a spay/neuter clinic from 2008 to 2015, successfully managing grants since 2006, and other animal welfare programs.

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?

Through donations and fundraising activities, we are able to assist very low income pet owners obtain spay/neuter and basic veterinary services. Our funds are limited and this grant will enable us to expand our spay/neuter program to target pit bulls and mixes as well outdoor and feral cats. This very poor rural community has an inordinately high percentage of pet animals in these categories.

Target Population

| | |
|---|--|
| Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.): | Hamilton, Madison, and Suwannee Counties |
| Total human population in target area: | 72,869 |
| Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: | 27.7% |
| Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): | 22082 |
| Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): | 18218 |
| Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): | 12145 |
| Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | Unknown |
| Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | Unknown |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | Unknown |
| Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | Unknown |
| Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. | |
| We believe the estimated number of pet dogs and cats in the target area is significantly higher than the national average because this highly rural area of North Central Florida ranks very low in per capita income (\$16,547), % under poverty level (27.7%), and high school dropout rate (22.3%). Because of these disadvantages and limited sheltering resources in the three identified counties, significantly more intact dogs and cats are continuously reproducing. | |
| Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: | |
| Pit bulls and dogs which look like pit bulls are unfortunately popular among the poorer members of our community and constitute a higher-than-usual percentage of the dog overpopulation. Many owners realize they cannot afford the litters that inevitably come, but cannot afford private veterinarian charges. There is also an unusually high number of community cats whose owners/caretakers have kept them when they simply showed up at their homes. Again, those in poverty do not have needed funds to sterilize the adults and, as we are all too aware, the number grows out of control all too quickly. Most large dogs and cats in our service area live outdoors and are subject to constant impregnation. | |
| 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? | |
| North Florida Animal Rescue in Suwannee County provides excellent low-cost services and we use their clinic to assist with our hardship cases. Unfortunately, there are too many pet owners who cannot afford even their low prices so subsidized programs are needed. | |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

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

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

Most of the community cats reside on private property (large acreages) within Hamilton, Madison, and Suwannee counties totaling 1,927 square miles (519 in Hamilton, 716 in Madison, and 692 in Suwannee).

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

Pet owners/caretakers must be in receipt of income-based government assistance in the form of Food Stamps, Medicaid, or SSI and receive no more than 150% of federal poverty income guidelines.

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

The entire targeted area is rural and designated either residential or agricultural.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 300

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 0

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 300

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

To qualify, individuals participating must be currently caring for the cats and commit to continuing that care. North Florida PAWS will remain available to provide support.

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:

The Hamilton Humane Society is fully supporting the spay/neuter efforts of North Florida PAWS with volunteers, specifically to help with trapping, transport, and follow-up.

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

Owners/caretakers can call upon North Florida PAWS if there is a concern wildlife is being impacted, particularly when due to a lack of cat food.

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

Owners/caretakers generally live on large parcels of land which reduces the potential for neighbor disputes.

Will the cats be ear-tipped? Yes

Will the cats be microchipped? No

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

The sterilizations under this program are expected to be used by those caring for free-roaming community cats; however, any individual or group managing a feral colony will receive priority with trapping and transport as well as surgery.

Objectives

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

Based on an average cost of \$46 for each surgery from grant funds, we plan to spay/neuter a minimum of 550 dogs and cats, giving priority to females. If the ratio of dogs and females is higher than predicted, North Florida PAWS will make up the difference of increased cost to assure our goal is met.

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

The eligible owners/caretakers will be those who cannot afford even the reduced costs of the non-profit spay/neuter clinic. The \$10 co-pay for surgery and help with transportation will assure 550 more dogs and cats will be helped.

Methods

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

Owners/caretakers must be in receipt of current government assistance based on a maximum of 150% of the federal poverty level through Food Stamps, Medicaid, or SSI. Proof includes a valid photo ID matching the name on qualifying documentation.

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

We continually receive unsolicited requests from persons who would be eligible. In the past we have been very successful through posting flyers (English and Spanish) in places frequented by low-income families (local health department, libraries, etc.) The local radio stations and newspapers have always been supportive and publicize our press releases. We also use social media and post on our website.

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

North Florida PAWS' volunteers are experienced working with our diverse cultures and available to help owners/caretakers with transportation, completing forms, providing traps, and any other problems which arise.

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.

North Florida PAWS has a large van which has been used for transporting dogs and cats for spay/neuter. In addition, there are a variety of animal crates and humane traps available. Only volunteers experienced in animal handling will have direct contact with the dogs and cats and have signed liability releases.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

Located south of Wellborn in Suwannee County, North Florida Animal Rescue's spay/neuter and veterinary clinic will be used to perform surgeries. They have agreed to the charges listed under "Fee Range."

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

Veterinary Practices

| Practice Name | Address | City | State | Zip | Phone | Lead Practice |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| North Florida Animal Rescue | 16800 CR 137 | Wellborn | FL | 32094 | 386-963-1354 | <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="\$10.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$30.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$40.00"/> |
| Range for Female Cats | <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$40.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$50.00"/> |
| Range for Male Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$50.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$60.00"/> |
| Range for Female Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$60.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$70.00"/> |

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="\$5.00"/> |
| 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="\$17.00"/> |
| Pain Medication | <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="\$5.00"/> |
| 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="\$12.00"/> |
| 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="\$20.00"/> |
| 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:

North Florida PAWS will cover the cost of the \$10 co-pay, rabies vaccinations and pain medication for the most indigent owners/caretakers on a case-by-case basis.

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 |
|---|---|
| Big 98 Radio Station (Scott Berns) | Located in Live Oak, Suwannee County, has committed to advertising our program. This country music station's listening area covers all three counties. |
| City of Jasper (Hamilton County) | Advertising to their community. |
| Hamilton Humane Society, Inc. | This organization has committed to help with advertising, transport, trapping, and any hands-on help needed to residents in any of the three targeted counties. |
| North Florida Animal Rescue (Suwannee County) | Perform spay/neuter surgeries at agreed prices, advertise to everyone contacting their clinic, and help with processing applications. |
| Suwannee Valley Humane Society (Madison County) | Advertising to their members and everyone contacting their animal shelter in person or by phone. |
| Town of Jennings (Hamilton County) | Advertising to their community, including helping with processing applications. |

Other Information

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

North Florida PAWS has over 9 years experience serving spay/neuter and other needs of low-income pet owners in this area of North Central Florida. We have gained an understanding of our community and have established relationships with many government officials, organizations, and individuals.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 300 **Dogs:** 250

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$46.00

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

On a case-by-case basis, North Florida PAWS will cover the costs of co-pays, rabies vaccinations, and pain medication for the most indigent owners. All costs associated with providing transportation will be absorbed by North Florida PAWS.

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

On a case-by-case basis, North Florida PAWS will cover the costs of co-pays, rabies vaccinations, and pain medication for the most indigent owners. All costs associated with providing transportation will be absorbed by North Florida PAWS.

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

Additional costs associated with this program will come from the general fund and a board member has pledged \$1,000 for a matching grant.

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

76%

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.**

Through collaboration with Hamilton Humane Society, Inc., and North Florida Animal Rescue, Inc., we are planning additional fund-raising activities and events to increase the number of low-income pet owners/caretakers we can help during and after the grant period.

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.**

North Florida PAWS continually promotes FAF Spay/Neuter License Plate not only on our website, but we also have a display with a sign, an expired license plate, and brochures for our office and at all events. All of our vehicles have specialty license plates.