

Grant ID: 1775

Title of Proposal: Spay Neuter Capacity Builder
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Operation Catnip of Gainesville

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Operation Catnip of Gainesville **Website Address:** ocgainesville.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Audrey Garrison **Position:** Executive Director
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: audrey.garrison@ocgainesville.org
Agency Head: Amanda Burks-Kraft **Agency Head Email:** amanda.m.burks@gmail.com
Organization Business Address: P.O. Box 141023 **City:** Gainesville
State: FL **Zip:** 32614
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-380-0940 **Fax:**
Cell: 941-720-4539

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 06/25/1998
Dates of Last Fiscal Year: **Begin:** 01/01/17 **End:** 12/31/17
Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$378,711.00
Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$318,530.00
Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 4 Part Time: 2
Number of Active Volunteers: 200
Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 100.00
How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Dr. Julie Levy, founder, member of our Board of Directors, and head of our Medical Committee, was contributor to the FAF license plate legislative effort and also served as grant committee chair.
Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if

applicable):

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

	Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
	129	2010	Operation Catnip	Funded
Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):	285	2012	Spay More to Save More	Funded
	1427	2014	Spay More to Save More	Funded
	1678	2016	Rural Spay-Neuter Expansion	Funded
	1775	2018	Spay Neuter Capacity Builder	Funded

Describe your Organization:

Services Provided

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

Organization Structure:

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

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Amanda Burks-Kraft	President	352-665-2806	Consultant, Animal Welfare
Dr. Julie Levy, DVM	Medical Director	352-258-6658	Professor, UF College of Veterinary Medicine
Joseph Bour	Director	352-339-5356	Principal, financial services business
Zoe Haraden	Director	352-262-6054	Entrepreneur, owns several businesses

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

78 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

5 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

3629 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- Stray/Lost pet intake
- Foster Program
- Wellness services to understand pet owners
- Volunteer Program
- Owner surrendered animals
- Food Bank
- Cruelty investigation
- High volume spay/neuter clinic

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost and Found Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of ordinances | <input type="checkbox"/> Full service wellness clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster services | | |

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?

Yes. We don't do traditional adoptions, however we have a Working Cat placement program that is actually a free adoption program for cats not suitable for standard adoption through our partners, but cannot be returned to their outside home for a variety of reasons.

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.

Operation Catnip's life-saving work brings veterinary students from UF's College of Veterinary Medicine into collaboration with our animal welfare mission. Our monthly mass spay-day clinics are used to provide an opportunity for important hands-on spay-neuter training and clinical experience for our participating vet student volunteers. Operation Catnip's clinics offer high-quality veterinary services for community cats while providing an efficient training platform for students at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. Our volunteers, students, community members, and local veterinarians keep our surgical costs within industry standards for HQHV MASH style clinics while training an army of veterinarians through service-learning. The skills gained at Operation Catnip provide long-term impact nationwide, and indeed globally, saving the lives of community cats. For the past two years we have streamlined and expanded the surgical capacity at our monthly clinics to accommodate the demand from caregivers and to provide the students more surgical opportunities. That created a need for more pro-active methods on our part to generate the extra capacity. That capacity is at the limits of available space and time during Catnip Sundays. The answer to the problem of limited space at our monthly clinics has been the creation of new initiatives that have driven additional demand for more capacity. All our various programs are in collaboration with at least one other organization within the local animal welfare community. The result of these collaborative efforts has been a dramatic decrease in the number of cats entering Alachua County Animal Services since our inception, as has the number of cats euthanized at that shelter. These programs serve as a testament to our methods and why we plan to expand our reach within our local area. But the success of our programs has drawn attention to the lack of services available to fill the demand. An increase in surgical capacity will serve to expand our services locally and begin the process of reaching those in need beyond the central core of the population base.

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?

The need in Alachua County has been much greater than could be met with our monthly Catnip Sunday clinics. We have the demand within the county for an additional 5000 spay-neuter surgical slots annually. Reservations fill up weeks in advance of each clinic, and dozens of cats that need our help are turned away. There are many cats that cannot be trapped for a single day of surgery. One of our programs, the Targeted Community Cat Program, allows Operation Catnip to expand benefits to those in the community who care for their neighborhood community cats but were not able to trap all the cats for our monthly clinic. To meet the need for more TNR capacity and more flexible surgery scheduling, we have collaborated with our local Humane Alliance model spay-neuter clinic to provide opportunities to caregivers admit cats for spay-neuter, vaccination, and eartip services for no cost to the caregiver, with Operation Catnip providing vaccines and parasite treatment and paying the clinic \$40 per cat treated, on a walk-in basis Monday through Wednesday. Their clinic is open every week, Monday through Thursday. Operation Catnip has recently started a couple of

new programs, described below, that were placing even more demand on the facilities at the Humane Society’s clinic, relying on the already stretched capacity within their clinic. This is true not just for the community cats on which our program focuses, but the demand is also not being met for companion pets in the region. Additionally, there are no life-affirming organizations in this region, except for Operation Catnip, that offers humane programs for community cats. Increasing the surgical capacity is the critical component in serving the continuing needs locally in Alachua County, which is the role Operation Catnip plans to fill.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical Information service (GIS), etc.):	Alachua County, FL
Total human population in target area:	256,581
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	22.3
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	77752
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	64146
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	42764
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2033
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2727
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	85
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	183
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. These are final statistics for the entire county compiled by Alachua County Animal Services for calendar year 2017.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Unowned free-roaming cats represent a substantial portion of the total cat population in this region. Programs aimed at reducing cat overpopulation should include provisions for neutering unowned free-roaming cats, and efforts should target the general public, not only pet owners, because not all households that feed unowned free-roaming cats own pets.	
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? Operation Catnip has been using the ACHS clinic as our primary partner for our Targeted Community Cat Program for several years. Every year we hope to supply residents with more spay-neuter openings but due to the limits of the surgical capacity at that clinic, we have maxed out at 600 to 700 spay-neuter surgeries per-year. We have need for 1000 additional sterilizations beyond our current level annually just for our local Targeted Community Cat program. This has been the case even though Operation Catnip has been providing some of our best and most talented students as volunteers during their Monday through Thursday clinics. The available surgical slots fill up quickly when you consider that they need surgical capacity for their own adoptable animals as well for the general population and companion pets. There are a couple of other programs	

Operation Catnip has recently initiated. One is the Kitten Clinic. Briefly stated, Operation Catnip utilized the spay-neuter clinic at ACHS on numerous weekend days beginning May 2017. By providing free sterilizations for local adoption agencies, we provided our best students additional surgical and clinical opportunities for pediatric spay-neuter and examinations. We averaged about 40 sterilizations per clinic, with a total of 255 pediatric spay-neuters in 2017. These clinics are staffed entirely by the veterinary professionals in Operation Catnip's roster of teaching vets and local area vets who mentor the students through every phase of these procedures. The other new program is the Kitten Shelter Diversion Program. Operation Catnip partners with both Alachua County Animal Services and Alachua County Humane Society to offer residents an alternative to shelter relinquishment for kittens of community cats, or for the "giving away" of kittens without the kittens having received veterinary care, including sterilization. Operation Catnip is providing free sterilizations for the kittens and the queens, plus mentoring and trapping assistance to engage the public to foster the kittens rather than taking them to our shelters or rescue groups. This program started two years ago, and we now have the need for 250 kitten and 50 adult sterilizations per year. The result of this Shelter Diversion Program is that we are keeping the kittens out of the shelter and preventing them from becoming part of the problem. The new Surgical Capacity Building Program began due to the increased demand from these other new programs. This increased surgical capacity will allow Operation Catnip to satisfy the needs of our ancillary programs.

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.

Our targeted area is Alachua County. It is 969 square miles, 875 square miles of land. The City of Gainesville comprises more than half of the county's population yet accounts for only 63 square miles, or 7% of the land in Alachua.

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

Operation Catnip's focus for our entire history has been on the population reduction for community cats in our base of Alachua County. The great majority of our work has been within the major population center, the City of Gainesville. We are reaching out with greater emphasis now on the rural areas outside of the city central.

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

While all residents in the county are welcome to use our services, most of our expansion will be into the rural areas surrounding the City of Gainesville.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 42764

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 30000

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 20

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

Operation Catnip has been maintaining community support for its many programs for over 20 years through a

combination of staff and a huge roster of volunteers. We now have two part-time RTF Coordinators who assist the public in all aspects of community cat management, including food subsidies.

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:

Alachua County recognizes the need to effectively and humanely practice TNR and has codified proper community cat management regulations within their municipal code, Section #72.25. And, we partner with Alachua County Humane Society on the Capacity Building Program presented within this application. Letters of Support from both organizations are included.

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

When there is concern about wildlife areas, cats are relocated rather than being returned to their original location. We do this in rare circumstances knowing full well it is not the best solution for the cats and it is done in accordance with nationally recognized guidelines.

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

Nuisance mitigation is a primary concern at Operation Catnip and one that we have always taken seriously. Our two RTF Coordinators are always available to help residents with this issue and we work in coordination with Alachua County Animal Services to reduce the number of calls which require their response by offering alternatives. The clear majority of these nuisances are controlled by sterilization, but we also offer deterrents and education to reduce cat attraction.

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.

Operation Catnip has been providing free spay-neuter services for Alachua County community cats for over 20 years. In that time, we have sterilized over 55,000 cats. Our goal in this first year of the Capacity Builder is 2400 cats which would be 20% of estimated number not already sterilized.

Objectives

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

This grant from the Florida Animal Friends will cover direct spay-neuter surgical costs necessary to expand capacity for Alachua County. Your funds will be dedicated only to the extra sterilizations that will be performed, and not to our current base numbers. This capacity building initiative makes it possible to fulfill other programs - Targeted Community Cat, Kitten Clinics and Shelter Diversion – that are currently utilizing Alachua County Humane Society clinic facilities on three of the four days that their clinic is open. To create increased surgical capacity economically, Operation Catnip will utilize the ACHS clinic on the weekends with our own staff and volunteers. As we endeavor with all our various programs, this capacity building will provide our top-tier veterinary students expanded opportunities for service learning. Operation Catnip has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alachua County Humane Society, whereby we will become the clinic operator on most of the weekends throughout the year. For obvious reasons, we cannot hold these ancillary clinics on the same weekends when our mass Catnip Sunday clinics are being staged. We also will not operate on holiday weekends. These extra, capacity-building clinics have begun, and we plan to operate 35 weekends per year. We know we will be able to build our capacity for these various programs by 3500 cats per year just

by offering surgeries on the weekends as described. We do not, however, expect to reach that full capacity within the first year. Operation Catnip plans to use the ACHS clinic for 70 weekend-days per year, with a projected limit of 50 high-quality, high-volume spay-neuters being performed each clinic day by the combination of staff and student-volunteers with teaching professionals. Thus, we expect 2400 to 2600 additional sterilizations in the first year, or about 35 to 40 during each day the clinic is running. This will fill two-thirds of our intended total capacity in the first year which is a realistic goal.

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

The Targeted Community Cat Program has a current demand of 1600 cats per year, but we have been able to accommodate only about 600. We will still use some capacity of the Humane Society's clinic days on the days they run the clinic to fulfill some program needs, but the bulk of the surgeries will be pushed into the weekends. Our Kitten Clinic and Shelter Diversion programs have a combined demand from our local adoption partners of about 500 sterilizations per year, an increase of about 200 from the level at the end of last year. Plus, we expect to bring 1200 to 1400 community cats from the outlying, rural areas of the county that do not have viable spay-neuter options to Gainesville for sterilizations.

Methods

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

Our programs are offered free of charge to all residents of the community we serve. These caregivers provide ongoing care for community cats. Operation Catnip's focus is the welfare of the cats, the caregivers, and the community through the humane control of free-roaming community cats. Placing barriers to quality medical care and sterilizations would be counter-productive to our mission, resulting in fewer cats receiving the service required.

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

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience. We educate the public on cat issues with flyers, door hangers, and a brochure, all in collaboration with our local municipal shelter, Alachua County Animal Services. Another recent addition is the extension of our RTF program that uses enhanced caregiver methods to educate and assist residents in their efforts to trap their neighborhood strays. These extensions - the Ride-Along (see below) and the RTF/ID Programs - have resulted in a continued increasing number of cats requiring services.

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

One program that directly addresses these issues was the creation of a Ride-Along in partnership with the Alachua County Animal Services where our staff and/or volunteers accompany their ACO's in advance of the clinic to pick up cats trapped by residents who do not have the physical ability to lift and/or transport the traps and cats. We have integrated this ride-along concept into our RTF/ID Program since February, 2017, and hired two part-time RTF Coordinators. The RTF Coordinators have the responsibility of working in the neighborhoods of our targeted population to identify trouble spots and enlist community support. This outreach has resulted in an enhanced RTF/ID Program where Operation Catnip has assumed all RTF duties in collaboration with Alachua County Animal Services.

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.

Trained volunteers and staff use humane traps to capture and confine the cats, followed by transportation in climate-controlled vehicles as described above. Liability releases are signed by the caregivers.

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

Operation Catnip has several licensed veterinarians participating in our various programs. Our monthly clinics are staffed by a combination of veterinary professors from the University of Florida as well as local practitioners who work at the clinics. Those clinics are headed by Dr. Julie Levy, Operation Catnip’s founder, board member, and chair of our medical committee. She is a professor of the Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida. Our Lead Vet for the Catnip Sunday Clinics and Medical Director for all clinics held outside of the College of Veterinary Medicine is Dr. Brian DiGangi. This includes the Capacity Building Clinics at the Humane Society’s facilities. Dr. DiGangi is a Senior Director of Shelter Medicine for the ASPCA.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Operation Catnip	P.O. Box 141023	Gainesville	FL	32614	352-380-0940	<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="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked: Required Yes, Fee to client No

	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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
County License	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip	<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="\$10.00"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for any of the above services, except for pain medication.

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

The cost to stage the capacity building clinics is \$50 per cat sterilization, commensurate with costs associated with our monthly Catnip Sunday clinics. This includes staffing plus costs for disposable surgical supplies, medications, and vaccinations.

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
 ACAS shelter staff will identify and refer cats for TNR services and work with our two RTF Coordinators on community issues and education. Operation Catnip provides spay-neuter surgeries for their adoptable kittens in the two programs, Shelter Diversion and the Kitten Services Clinics.

Alachua County Humane Society
 We have a standing MOU to use their spay-neuter clinical facilities on weekends when they are normally closed. Operation Catnip provides spay-neuter surgeries for their adoptable kittens in the two programs, Shelter Diversion and the Kitten Clinics. They have absorbed Helping Hands Society Pet Rescue. Helping Hands occasionally pulls kittens and friendly cats from our clinics.

Other Information

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

It is well recognized that the important issue facing animal welfare is the need to spay-neuter all pets and free-roaming community cats. Operation Catnip is preparing the next generation of veterinarians to perform these surgeries in a manner not readily found elsewhere while delivering quantifiable results to our local community cat population. During the 20 years that Operation Catnip has been providing free cat sterilizations to Alachua County, the number of cats impounded at the ACAS shelter has dropped from over 5000 per year down to under 2000. The live release rate for cats has gone from 23% to over 95% in 2017. The results are the proof of our impact. This Florida Animal Friends Grant will allow us to reach more cats in the outlying areas.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 625 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$40.00

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

Examinations and ear tipplings are performed by the volunteer veterinary students without any costs to the clinic. Rabies and FVRCP vaccinations plus parasite controls are administered to every cat coming through our clinics. Those items cost \$10 per cat are part of Operation Catnip's internal budgeting assumptions and are not included in the grant cost proposed herein. We cover those costs from local community donations. With the Capacity Building Program spaying and neutering an additional 2400 cats in the first year, our total program costs will be about \$120,000. One grant received plus several other grant requests totaling \$60,000 will fully cover all surgical expenses for the clinics if this request to the Florida Animal Friends is awarded. Local donations will cover all non-surgical costs.

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

Operation Catnip is committed to providing this new capacity to our community. We have submitted within this past month a few other grant requests that, in combination with this grant from the Florida Animal Friends, will secure all the funding required for the next year. One other grant request, from the Petco Foundation was just received for \$10,000. We will be advised of the other awards in July and August. In addition to an ambitious grant seeking program, Operation Catnip has a committed core of donors locally. A few summaries are described below in Future Funding, but we'd also like to mention here that an example of the support we generate from those who know us best, Operation Catnip participates in the Amazing Give, an annual online community fundraiser staged by the Community Foundation of North Central Florida. Over \$1,000,000 was raised by 88 local charities in March during the 24-hour event. Operation Catnip earned over \$37,000 in donations during this event, and the most donations online for any of the participating animal welfare organization, including organizations much larger. This result attests to Operation Catnip's ability to garner financial support from our community.

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

21

Timeline

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding.

Projected start date: 09/01/18/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/19

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.**

Operation Catnip has begun the process of demonstrating our sustainability, and a large part of that sustainability has been the creation of an agency reserve fund, currently held at the Community Foundation of North Central Florida. Through diligent control of costs and procurement of funds through fundraising, Operation Catnip plans to have 6 months of operating expenses on hold for emergencies by the end of 2018. We currently have a little over 3 months of operating expenses in reserve. Operation Catnip has a 20-year history of success in raising community donations and submitting successful grant applications in support of our programs. Our website project now broadcasts content to an international audience, serves as a dynamic platform for storytelling, and enables us to reach a whole new donor constituent base. We have a strong social media following in our local community and are able to mobilize our followers to give generously. Our Facebook site has over 10,000 followers and we keep them engaged with a continuous stream of useful and timely information on our programs and clinics. We have an active and continuing fund solicitation program, seeking support from major grant making organizations as well as many smaller organizations and individuals.

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 with their final report.**

Operation Catnip has always recognized our sponsors for their great work in life-saving. Our vast array of programs offers multiple opportunities for display and signage. We will utilize a poster in a stand-up frame at the check-in area where people congregate to admit their cats during Sunday clinics. That same poster will be moved to the discharge area when the caretakers come back in the afternoon to pick up their cats. We have over 2700 cats now coming through those clinics on a yearly basis and their caretakers would be exposed to the signage. The very same opportunity would exist for the new weekend clinics that are the focus of this request, with the poster stationed at the front entrance to the weekend clinic. We anticipate hosting over 2400 additional cats during the year as we have described elsewhere in this application. Most of those cats will be transported to and from the clinic by their caretakers. We would be delighted to display any posters, brochures or other materials in our office lobby that Florida Animal Friends might supply. Our office is now open during the month for residents to come pick up traps, return traps, or visit for any number of other reasons. We have hundreds of traps that are made available to anyone needing to trap cats in the county. We would be happy to distribute any items that might be supplied by Florida Animal Friends. We currently have Florida Animal Friends brochures on display in our lobby and most of our staff sports FAF license plates. Florida Animal Friends receives mentions in our social media postings. Our Facebook pages alone have over 10,000 followers

who are treated every day to a new and informative post on upcoming events or helpful topics on the proper care for their neighborhood cats.