

Grant ID: 1821

**Title of Proposal:** Expansion and Improved Efficiency of Citrus County TNR program

**Agency Type:** Municipal

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Citrus County Animal Services

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Citrus County Animal Services

**Website Address:** <https://www.citruscritters.com/>

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Meredith Montgomery

**Position:** Veterinarian

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** Meredith.Montgomery@citrusbocc.com

**Agency Head:** Colleen Yarbrough

**Agency Head Email:** meredith.l.montgomery@gmail.com

**Organization Business Address:** 4030 S Airport Rd

**City:** Inverness

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 34450

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 352-262-1552

**Fax:**

**Cell:** 352-262-1552

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:**

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/17 **End:** 09/30/18

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,060,216.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,852,470.83

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 16 Part Time: 0

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 69

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 258.25

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Through Maddie's Fund and Million Cat Challenge

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: Year(s) denied/incomplete:

**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1821	2019	Expansion and Improved Efficiency of Citrus County TNR program	Funded

**Describe your Organization:**  
**Services Provided**

**Organization Structure:**

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

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

List your current board of directors:

**Applicant Qualifications**

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

1821 cats and 2131 dogs were admitted.

764 cats and 1188 dogs were adopted.

510 cats and 54 dogs were euthanized.

0 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
- Lost and Found Program
- Behavior counseling
- Enforcement of ordinances
- Full service wellness clinic
- Adoption Program
- 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?

N/A

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

N/A. All animals are now spayed and neutered before 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.**

Dr. Meredith Montgomery is a former training veterinarian at ASPCA's Spay Neuter Alliance and is trained in high quality high volume spay neuter. Recent onboarding of 2 veterinary technicians for spay neuter and shelter services will allow for expansion of spay neuter services. A core group of 2 trained volunteer staff are assisting in recovering including monitoring, pain scoring, and subcutaneous fluids. While currently conducting TNVR, we hope to expand this program by working with local caretakers without continuing to decrease the resources for medical care for homeless pets in our shelter.

**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?**

We are currently funding sterilization with an approximately 100,000 operating medical budget which includes all medications, bloodwork (sent out to Idexx), xrays (at neighboring vet office), and surgical care needed for animals in our care (including spay/neuter). We are currently providing TNVR services in cooperation with Citrus County Animal Control.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Citrus County
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	145647
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	14.4

<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	44136
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	36412
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	24275
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2033
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2042
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	703
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	226

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

The target population of trapped cats is our target animal population and these numbers appear accurate in their evaluation. One number that appears inflated is the number of dogs euthanized in the animal shelter as many were owner requested euthanasia.

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

Previous cat overpopulation in our shelter and in our area is due to a lack of low cost options for spay neuter of trapped/community cats in all life stages (pregnant, in heat, pediatric). Providing TNR to our community has dramatically decreased our cat overpopulation in January and February of 2019, but has also resulted in significant budget concerns to continue the program.

**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?**

Current spay neuter opportunities are through Humanitarians and PetLuv in Brooksville. These services are cost prohibitive to some clients, but also importantly are not routinely available to a large number of trap neuter return animals brought to Citrus County Animal Services through animal control.

**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.**

All of Citrus County is included in the targeted area at this time due to trapping efforts by Animal Control. Spayed, ear tipped, and vaccinated animals are returned to their home address by volunteers in the community.

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

We will be targeting free roaming cats (socialized and unsocialized). All cats that are unaltered and free roaming are eligible for TNR services (ie providing services for feral cats and socialized community cats).

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

The area we are targeting is mostly rural and residential.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :** 27000

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 1000

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 4000

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

We work with established volunteers outside of our organization for return to field. These cats appear to be fairly socialized, well fed

and maintained on physical exam. As animal control officers improve communication with community cat care takers, we will be providing handouts on the benefit of not continuing to re-trap ear tipped cats.

**Do current city/county ordinances address TNR or free-roaming cats?**

Yes

**Please explain what is allowed:**

TNR is allowed if the cat is returned with a microchip, ear tip, rabies vaccine, and spayed or neutered.

**(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:**

Citrus County Animal Control provides trapping effort and transport to Citrus County Animal Services for those who are physically unable to trap and transfer the cats themselves. Citrus County Animal Services will provide spay neuter services, microchip, rabies vaccine, and ear tip to unowned cats. Return to field is provided by volunteers outside of our shelter organization. Snippet Citrus is a volunteer based group that would like to work with us trapping colonies (as requested by colony care

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

By providing TNVR, we are providing rabies vaccination to community cat populations in an effort to decrease zoonotic and wildlife risk of rabies infection. Furthermore, by providing TNVR services, we believe that we will decrease the number of community cats being born into managed colonies.

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

Unowned and completely unsocialized cats that are trapped due to nuisance issues will be trapped, neutered, vaccinated, and returned to field with information provided to community members about decreased unwanted behaviors in altered animals. Those that show high levels socialization and medical issues that may decrease their ability to make a living in a colony may be considered for our barn cat program or adoption on a case by case basis and availability of homes and space to humanely house t

**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.**

Through resources provided by this grant we hope to be able to provide and more efficient and humane service through appropriate use of humane traps in the field, in our shelter, and then a prompt and efficient return to field. Furthermore, as we are able to decrease the numbers of cats within the care of our shelter, we will be able to afford more appropriate cat housing including feral cat dens with portals.

## Objectives

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

Minimum of 60 humane traps Minimum of 10 feral cat dens Telazol, torbgesic, dexdomitor mixture for 4000 cats/year Meloxicam injectable for 4000 cats/year Subcutaneous and IV fluids for 4000 cats/year Transmucosal buprenex for 2500 cats/year Suture material for 4000 cats/year 1 Autoclave 2 prep tables 3 additional anesthesia machines 20 additional female "cat packs" of surgical instruments 3 additional pulse oximeters 1 Heska pump 1-3 bottles of naloxone, antesedan, flumazenil (reversal agents) H-tank oxygen refills for anesthesia

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

With the recent addition of a shelter vet skilled in high quality high volume spay neuter services and an additional veterinary technician, we should be able to provide 80 TNVR services each week. Previous S/N capabilities were between 0-10 per week (2018).

## Methods

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

All cats that are trapped as free-roaming, unsterilized, and are not microchipped would be eligible for this program to maximize their live outcome potential. Animals that are outwardly showing significant signs of disease and physical distress will be evaluated by a veterinarian and medical work up discussed before surgery and/or return to field.

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

Animal Control will be made aware that they have a maximum of 20 cats they can bring each Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and

Thursday to provide TNVR services. They will have handouts available to colony caretakers including published materials from Alley Cat Allies about caring for unowned community cats. We also have pamphlets available to the public at Citrus County Animal Services promoting our program. Finally, information is available about TNR on Citrus County Animal Services website.

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

Transportation is provided to the shelter by Animal Control officers in cases when people are physically unable to trap or transfer the animals to shelter. Transportation is provided back to trapping location by a volunteer organization partnering with Citrus County Animal Services. Animal control officers will be providing important information to caretakers and people living in proximity to community cats via handouts and verbally. Our front desk staff is also equipped with information to guide people through TNVR.

**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.**

Trapped cats will be brought in by animal control officers (both hired and volunteer) as well as by trappers themselves. These animals will be transferred humanely to a Citrus County Animal Services trap for TN(V)R services the following day. Each animal will have specific individual identification ensuring that it is returned to its home range/location of original trapping. These ACO's have received training on handling of TNVR cats, but these practices will be updated once appropriate traps are obtained through grant funding opportunities. No trapped cats will be handled unless the animal is anesthetized. Additional training in stress and infectious disease mitigation in trapped cats will be provided for both ACOs, volunteers, and shelter staff participating in return to field.

**Veterinary Services**

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

I (Meredith Montgomery) am the veterinarian on staff at Citrus County Animal services and will be able to perform anesthetized physical exam, anesthesia & pain control, high quality-high volume spay neuter, vaccination, microchip and ear tip for all cats entering for TNVR. These services will be provided for free as these are unowned animals in an effort to decrease homeless cats in our community.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Citrus County Animal Services	4030 S Airport Rd	Inverness	Florida	34450	352-746-8400	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<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?
<b>Examination</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

- Pain Medication**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- Parasite Medication**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- HW Testing**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- Feline Leuk/FIV**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- County License**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- Ear tipping**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- Microchip**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes
- Other**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  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:**

I have used the estimated fee of \$25 dollars per trapped cat provided by Spay/Neuter Alliance's online resources. We used ASPCA's Spay Neuter Alliance's anesthetic and analgesic protocols. Ear tipping, rabies vaccines, and microchips are currently required by county ordinance. Other vaccination, pain medication, and parasite control will be decided case by case by the veterinarian evaluating the patient.

**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
Animal Control of Citrus County	Provide trapping effort and transportation to shelter.
Snippet Citrus	Involved in return to field. Have standing relationships with colony care givers. Have lists and locations of caregivers to provide trapping and transfer efforts of cats to shelter for TN(V)R.

## Other Information

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

Our number one goal is providing a humane and sustainable outcome for community cats in our area. Rather than housing these animals in shelter and causing them significant mental and physical stress, we can provide sterilization surgery, microchipping,

vaccination and ear tipping for their return to their outdoor homes. We are providing a humane and sustainable outcome to improve the welfare of healthy community cats in Citrus County.

## Budget

### **Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 4000 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$7.00

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

Rabies vaccines and microchips are currently being funded by the medical budget of Citrus County Animal Services. Ear tipping is essentially free and done at time of surgery with surgical instruments.

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

There are currently no other funding sources for this specific program. We are currently using funds from a very limited medical budget to provide funding for TNVR services recognizing that many of these cats would deteriorate physically and behaviorally if kept in shelter.

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

Fifty

## Timeline

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

**Projected start date:** 06/03/19/ **Projected end date:** 06/01/20

### **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.**

By demonstrating our success in TNVR, we hope to continue this mission with the recognition of its importance in the Citrus County Community and receive targeted donations in the future. We have started a program called "Spay it Forward" encouraging adopters to give donations at the time of animal adoption or drop off for TNVR. We hope these small, frequent donations will offset some costs. If we were to receive this grant, we would invest the grant earnings into equipment which would allow us to improve our efficiency and quality of service and care. Many of these pieces of equipment (autoclave, anesthesia machines, prep tables, etc), would not have to be bought again. Furthermore, by not housing these animals except for their recovery from surgery, costs associated with ongoing care of trapped cats and their associated stress related diseases will decrease freeing funds in the current budget for prevention of unwanted litters.

## 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.**

We will have the ability to promote and publicize receiving this grant via Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter in the next few months. We will be able to publicize grant funding online and in person at Citrus County Animal Services.