

Grant ID: 1840

**Title of Proposal:** Pets of Polk  
**Agency Type:** Non-Profit  
**Total Funding Requested:** \$24,990.00  
**Check Payable To:** SPCA Florida

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** SPCA florida  
**Website Address:** <http://www.spcaflorida.org>  
**Person Submitting Proposal:** Maria Sadowski  
**Position:** Grant Manager  
**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** msadowski@spcaflorida.org  
**Agency Head:** Shelley Thayer  
**Agency Head Email:** sthayer@spcaflorida.org  
**Organization Business Address:** 5850 Brannen Rd S  
**City:** Lakeland  
**State:** FL  
**Zip:** 33813  
**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 863-646-7722  
**Fax:** 863-646-4605  
**Cell:**

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/06/1980

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/18 **End:** 12/31/18

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$5,356,567.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$5,766,523.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 85 Part Time: 0

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 546

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 658.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous recipient

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2006, 2009, 2010

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
108	2009	Florida Animal Friend Grant Proposal	Denied
182	2010	Feral Cat Round Up	Denied (not completed)
354	2013	Community Cats	Funded
1466	2015	Spay/Neuter of Low-Income Residents	Funded
1594	2006		Denied
1695	2017	Low Income Spay/Netuer	Funded
1840	2019	Pets of Polk	Funded

### Describe your Organization:

#### Services Provided

- Open Admission Intake Shelter  
 Limited Intake Shelter

#### Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency  
 Private nonprofit agency

- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other Community Cat Food Bank, Educ

- TNR Group
- Rescue Group
- Other

**List your current board of directors:**

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Dawn Diaz	Board Member	817-829-8665	Business Owner
Julie Davis	Treasurer	813-373-0349	CPA
Karen Mitchell	President	813-966-2662	Retired
Marion Smith	Vice President	813-763-2113	Retired
Marty Wilkey	Board Member	863-687-6600	Banking VP
Mary Stephens	Board Member	863-602-5933	Retired
Ramona Blankinship	Board Member	863-687-7737	Attorney
Rick Johnson	Board Member	863-258-7352	City Manager
Stacy Walsh	Secretary	863-797-6387	Non-profit Development

**Applicant Qualifications**

**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

**2103 cats and 1800 dogs were admitted.**

**1909 cats and 1663 dogs were adopted.**

**79 cats and 18 dogs were euthanized.**

**3950 cats and 2389 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?**

N/A

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

All animals are sterilized before adoption.

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

All animals are sterilized 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.**

ASPCA Florida: \* Loans out traps to the public seven days a week. We educate the public on how to safely/correctly use them to trap feral and community cats. The cats can be brought to our medical clinic five days a week, Monday through Friday for TNVR. \* Has a trapper who brings in cats weekly for TNVR. \* Has leased a surgery trailer to enable us to s/n more cats. First surgery is scheduled April 1 2019 \* Has secured Sheriff Grady Judd as a spokesperson to promote spay/neuter and a no-kill county by 2025 \* Is working in partnership with Polk County Animal Control, The Humane Society of Polk County and to date 14 local veterinary clinics to help s/n kittens that Animal Control are finding. The person in charge of this program is Shelter Manager, Michelle Williams. Michelle has been employed with SPCA Florida for more than 10 years. She has worked with TNVR, lending traps, training, verifying eligibility, and tracking results. She is also the supervisor of our trapper, Bruce Nance. Bruce has worked with SPCA Florida for more than 15 years as a trapper. He knows the large geographic area of Polk County, works closely with colony care givers and receives requests daily to help with unmanaged pockets of unaltered cats. Bruce is involved from the beginning to the end, a caregiver is identified and brought on board, numbers are tracked, cats are sterilized, and a relationship is formed. SPCA Florida has never been more ready to take on additional s/n efforts. We have the space, the team, and the urgent desire.

**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?**

SPCA Florida currently has a program for the sterilization of cats. 1. One private individual has provided funding for several years. 2. Polk County has provided \$20,000 in funds for 2019, but many of these funds are personal pets of owners who need assistance. 3. SPCA Florida has budgeted

funds. 4. SPCA Florida has two major fundraising events to help secure s/n funds In 2018, our surgery center completed 6,339 spay/neuter surgeries. Of these, 1726 were community cats, 2986 were family pets, and the remaining 1627 were homeless strays, who entered our adoption center. Polk County Animal Control has a live release rate of approx. 51%. Our goal is to help them increase that rate by 16% in 2019. We are working collaboratively with them to s/n cats and kittens. They are transporting them to us and the numbers will be staggeringly in the thousands. This is more than we have ever attempted and we need financial support to succeed.

## Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Polk County: Zip codes 33801, 33813, and 33823.
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	373403
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	25.5%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	113153
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	93351
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	62234
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> Polk County Animal Control have not tracked admittance and euthanasia on zip code, so this information is not available. Our trapper of over 10 years knows these zip codes and the cats within.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> Free roaming cats are the greatest source of overpopulation. Included are the colony cats who are being fed but are not sterilized. Also included are large populations of "personal pets" - many free roaming - who are reproducing.	
<b>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?</b> There are 39 for-profit veterinary clinics in Polk County, but they are unlikely to adjust their prices to help the low-income households. TLC Petsnip offers low cost spay/neuter services, but they are booked out two moths with Polk County Animal Control cats and dogs, as they only have a vet one day a week. The Humane Society provides spay/neuter services through vouchers and participating veterinary clinics, but they are also unable to handle high volume, as they only have a veterinarian one day a week. All the resources available in the county put together are insufficient to manage the cat overpopulation.	
<b>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:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input checked="" 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.

The project will cover zip codes 33801, 33813, and 33823 in Polk County. This is an area of about 65.6 square miles.

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

Since Polk County Animal Control does not have statistics by zip codes, SPCA Florida tracked calls for help, complaint calls regarding cats, and areas well known by SPCA's trapper. We have been working in these three zip codes for years. Our trapper believes that we can significantly impact these areas, as he has identified specific areas of each zip code that need s/n assistance.

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

The targeted area is suburban with a mixed usage.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :** 62234

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 6000

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 430

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

Bruce Nance, our on-staff trapper of feral and community cats, has a lifelong commitment to TNVR and is a well-known figure in the county. Those who need food assistance to care for the cats are encouraged to come twice a month to our food bank program. SPCA Florida provides free medical assistance for colony and free roaming cats as needed throughout the year. SPCA Florida just leased a s/n trailer, and our commitment is solid, as is the commitment of our Board of Directors.

**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:**

We are working closely with Polk County Animal Control and the Sheriff to colonize groups of community cats, establish a caregiver, and provide resources such as medical needs and food assistance. The Sheriff will be our spokesperson to tell people to s/n their pets. Polk County Animal Control also reports the trapping of any ear tipped cat so we can return it to its colony.

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

SPCA Florida's pet food bank provides cat food for those who support community/feral cats and income qualified residents in need of food for their personal and outdoor pets. This helps lessen the cats' negative impact on birds and other wildlife by providing them a steady and reliable source of food.

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

SPCA Florida is open 7 days a week and takes nuisance calls, which our trapper addresses. Animal Control officers pick up moms and kittens from calls and bring them to SPCA Florida daily. Our TNVR efforts will lessen the negative impact of free-roaming cats by preventing controlled colonies from growing.

**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.**

Our seasoned trappers, staff and volunteers, are 100% dedicated to the program's success. We have partnered with Animal Control, our local Humane Society and local Veterinarians to work together to generate change and save lives. This is the first time that all four groups have focused on one mission – to save lives and prevent more births. Together, we will ensure that free roaming cats in these three zip codes are sterilized.

## Objectives

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

The funds from Florida Animal Friend will allow us to reach out to the areas where spay/neuter services are needed the most. One portion of the money will be set aside for TNVR efforts, and will be used to spay/neuter a minimum of 430 community cats, significantly decreasing the numbers of unwanted births. Being able to take this many animals in for treatment will help us stabilize the cat population, which in turn lowers the numbers of animals coming to Polk County Animal Control, helping them improve their live release rate. We follow this rate closely and intend to increase it from the current 51% to 67% in 2019. The remaining funds will be used to spay/neuter cats who belong to low-income families. The money will be enough for 285 animals. The program will not stop after the grant money has been depleted: we will apply for additional funding through donors and fundraising efforts.

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

In 2018, we spayed/neutered a total of 3,950 cats. 1,726 of these animals were community cats. Your support will help us increase these numbers during 2019, and help us reach the areas where the service is urgently needed. With your assistance, we can spay/neuter more than 5,000 cats in 2019, making a real impact!

## Methods

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

Community/feral cats in the target area will qualify automatically. Pet owners will need to show proof of income that corresponds to government low-income guidelines. They will also need to complete a short questionnaire that includes name, address, and phone number of the pet owner. Examples of proof of income includes VA Disability, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Social Security Disability, pay stubs, and similar.

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

We will reach the target audience through a combination of media. Signage is placed in low income neighborhoods where help is needed with free roaming and personal cats. We advertise on four local radio stations weekly, and once a month on local television. We have pamphlets to give out in English and Spanish. In addition, we will post information in a press release, free local tabloids, and all social and digital media. We also place flyers for the pet food bank with draws in people who need s/n assistance.

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

Volunteers and staff are ready to help. We have bilingual brochures and materials, and bilingual staff. Volunteers will seek out residents to hand out flyers in person and talk about spay/neuter and TNVR. We will, as we have in the past, also offer transportation for those who need assistance.

**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.**

Yes. SPCA Florida staff will be transporting cats in humane traps. Our trained transporters are required to show proof of insurance and a valid driver's license, and SPCA Florida has liability insurance coverage and liability paperwork for drivers to sign. If someone transports in a personal vehicle it must be reliable and safe, but the majority of transports will be made in our vehicles constructed for moving animals. Cats trapped in the evening who must wait for their procedure are given water and food and will be placed in a quiet environment with a sheet covering their cage. Once they reach SPCA Florida, all cats will be handled by trained veterinary staff accustomed to working with feral and community cats.

**Veterinary Services**

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

All spay/neuter surgeries will be performed by on-staff veterinarians in SPCA Florida's clinic or spay/neuter trailer. Local veterinarians will assist with spay/neuter, but not specifically for this program.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
SPCA Florida	5850 Brannen Rd S	Lakeland	FL	33813	863-646-7722	<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="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input 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
<b>Pain Medication</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>Parasite Medication</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>HW Testing</b>	<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="\$24.00"/>

**Feline Leuk/FIV**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes \$36.00

**County License**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes

**Ear tipping**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes

**Microchip**  Required  Optional  Not Available  No  Yes \$15.00

**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:**

The grant funds will cover the sterilization procedure and pain medication. SPCA Florida will cover FVRCP vaccine, parasite medication, rabies vaccine, and any other medical needs.

**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
Humane Society of Polk County	We are currently in discussion with the Humane Society of Polk County and hope to be able to use their surgery center one day a week when they are closed, to further increase our spay/neuter capabilities. We may also be able to borrow their pet transport trailer if needed.
Local Fire Department of Polk County	Will call regarding areas of condensed cats.
Local Police Department	Will call regarding areas of condensed cats.
Polk County Animal Control	We are working closely with Polk County Animal Control in an effort to increase their live release rates from the current 51% to 67% in 2019 and to a no-kill county by 2025. We have committed to taking all kittens up to 12 weeks and moms with kittens, including feral moms and kittens. They will contact us when they get calls from the target area, making it possible for our trappers to assist.

## Other Information

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

We will track every cat we spay/neuter on a spreadsheet and examine those numbers and zip codes on a weekly basis. This will help ensure the program operates smoothly and that we meet our goals and timeline.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 714 **Dogs:** 0

**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$24,990.00  
**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$35.00

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

For each cat, SPCA Florida will pay for rabies, FVRCP, and if needed, cap star. We will also pay for any additional medical care required. This money will come from our Guardian Angel Program, and if needed from general funds.

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

We are planning two major fundraisers in 2019: a Walk for Animals in April and an Auction for Animals in November. Funds from these events may be used to support the program. We also have the Guardian Angel Program that overlaps in ensuring no animal will go without the veterinary care it needs. These are funded by grants and private donations.

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

68

## Timeline

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

**Projected start date:** 07/01/19/    **Projected end date:** 06/30/20

### **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.**

We have committed to reducing euthanasia rates at Polk County Animal Control. In order to accomplish our goal of a no-kill county by 2025, we must plan long-term, and prevent further overpopulation. This can only happen through spreading information, education, and greater outreach regarding spay/neuter of both personal and community animals. We have private donors supporting these efforts and we are continuously applying for grants and holding fundraisers to be able to offer free and low-cost services. Our local Sheriff, Grady Judd, has also agreed to be our spokesperson for spay/neuter.

## 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.**

SPCA Florida will issue quarterly press releases, promote the program through permanent placement on our website and social media channels, and write about it in our newsletters. We will also place rack cards promoting Florida Animal Friend license plates in our lobby, medical clinic, administration building and place information in every adoption bag.