

Grant ID: 1903

Title of Proposal: DOG & CAT ASSISTANCE 2020**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** PAWS LEE COUNTY INC

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: PAWS LEE COUNTY INC**Website Address:** pawslleecounty.org**Person Submitting Proposal:** THERESA INK**Position:** President**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** t.ink@att.net**Agency Head:** Theresa Ink**Agency Head Email:** t.ink@att.net**Organization Business Address:** 965 Pondella Road**City:** N FT MYERS**State:** Florida**Zip:** 33903**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-652-6722**Fax:** 239-652-6724**Cell:** 239-994-2514

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/30/2009**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/19 **End:** 12/31/19**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$400,049.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$382,952.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 2 Part Time: 2**Number of Active Volunteers:** 10**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 20.00**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Prior recipient**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2010,2012,2014,2016,2018 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
138	2010	Suncoast Low Cost Assistance	Funded
297	2012	Surgery Assistance	Funded
1391	2014	LARGE DOG SPAY/NEUTER	Funded

1646	2016	2016 Large Dog	Funded
1757	2018	Dog and Cat Assistance 2018	Funded
1903	2020	DOG & CAT ASSISTANCE 2020	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:**Applicant Qualifications****For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

2428 cats and 1635 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?****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.**

We have been in operation since December 1998 and have performed more than 90,000 surgeries to date. Theresa Ink, our President and founder, started our first spay/neuter clinic in 1998 in a shopping center in a very poor section of our county. In January 2013 we were able to purchase a 2500 square foot building with 3/4 of an acre near our original location. So we are still located 10 minutes from 2 of the poorest neighborhoods in Lee County. All of our employees are dedicated to this mission of reducing pet over population. Dr. Mark Schmidt has worked with us for 7 years. Previously, he donated many hours to shelter medicine in Iowa, where he owned a full service practice for 25 years. We have 2 full time and 2 part time employees who have a combined 35 years of experience in caring for domestic animals. Theresa Ink has a BSBA in Economics and a BSBA in Accounting and passed the CPA exam in 1984. This business background has enabled her to manage the business side of a spay/neuter clinic. We take in a VERY limited number of dogs and cats for adoption. Usually for our clients when they are no longer able to care for them. Usually because of eviction, incarceration or serious medical problems that are beyond their financial capabilities. These are usually dogs that we are afraid will be "dumped" if we don't accept them. They almost always need to be spayed or neutered.

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 currently spay or neuter about 4500 dogs or cats per year. While most of our clients pay something, we still have clients who can pay very little. In some situations it is because they have too many dogs or cats and are only sterilizing the females. After 21 years of running a low cost clinic, we are still certain that the biggest contributors to the pet over population are those with the least funds. In the last 18 months we have increased our emphasis to our poorer surrounding counties such as Glades and Hendry. We have been sending a bus to Clewiston Animal Control and picking up owned dogs and cats for surgery. We bring them to our facility in the morning, perform the surgeries and then return them that evening. We have been charging \$10 per cat and \$20 per dog. Usually they can pay but occasionally we have to provide services for free.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical Information service (GIS), etc.):	Lee, Glades, Hendry
Total human population in target area:	809890
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	25
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	245422
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	202473
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	134982
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3929
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	4723
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1589
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	782
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
Our target area is certainly low income individuals and households with a large number of domestic pets or those caring for community cats. I don't think it is significantly different than above.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Low income individuals, unsupported or unmonitored feral colonies and working poor are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation.	
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?	
Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) provides spay/neuter services in part of our target area but they are 35 to 45 minutes from our clinic. Two very low income neighborhoods are 10 minutes from our clinic. We also pick up animals for surgery, if there is a transportation problem. LCDAS cannot usually provide that service. Also, we have provided spay/neuter services for the poorer rural counties near Lee, such as Glades and Hendry who have very few veterinary resources in their area. Gulf Coast Humane Society also performs spay/neuter services in Lee County. They are located in East Fort Myers and are closer to neighborhoods in central and east Ft Myers and Lehigh Acres. Each of these organizations will refer clients to PAWS and we refer to them when they are closer for the client. In addition, Gulf Coast may be closer to larger cat colonies and North Ft Myers is more rural and may have a larger concentration of large dogs.	
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.

We will spay or neuter Community cats from anywhere in Southwest Florida which includes Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry

counties.

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

Eligibility for this program is anyone who needs financial assistance with outdoor Community cats that are receiving basic care such as food and water. Usually the number of cats that need to be spayed or neutered, requires some financial assistance to get them all spayed or neutered.

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 rural, suburban and urban. It is usually commercial and residential but occasionally agricultural

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 0

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 0

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 0

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

N/A

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

No

Please explain what is allowed:

N/A

(NOTE: FAF will not fund any program this is inconsistent with local ordinances.)

For TNR program, list any groups or government agencies who support this TNR effort:

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Will the cats be ear-tipped? Yes

Will the cats be microchipped? Yes

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

A few of these cats may be feral but most are close to a residence or business and the feeders consider them their personal cats. In some cases they started with 2 cats and now after a litter they are desperate to get them all "fixed". They will still be ear tipped because they are inside/outside cats. We will encourage micro chipping but we do not require that they are chipped.

Objectives

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

225 spay/neuter surgeries for large breed dogs and 100 spay/neuter surgeries for community cats for low income households.

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

The funds provided by this program would subsidize 325 surgeries for those pet owners who cannot afford to cover the cost of their pet's sterilization, even through a low-cost program such as ours. This will result in our ability to provide more public services to reduce the overpopulation in our area.

Methods

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

Any pet owner who has a large dog or a community cat and is on public assistance will be eligible for this program. Additionally, if not on public assistance but can demonstrate a financial hardship or need, they will be deemed eligible. For example, we frequently hear about a costly human medical problem that limits their ability to spay or neuter their pet.

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

Facebook and Craig's List have been an excellent way to reach our target audience. After 21 years of performing spay/neuter surgeries, word of mouth is still an excellent way for us to reach our target market.

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

We have always provided transportation when necessary. We explain the medical reasons for spay/neuter and it frequently will help with the cultural barriers. We have not found illiteracy to be a problem. Through sustained and caring services, we have established a good reputation in the area. Residents of varied ethnicities have come to trust us and our mission. This reputation is reinforced with our food pantry distributions to altered pets. If they come for food and have unaltered pets, we will alter within a few days at what ever cost they can afford. We have found some of our "best" clients thru our food pantry.

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.

We sometimes transport animals in our personal vehicles. We normally seek the assistance of the pet's owner in the handling of problem animals. Each of our staff has received training to ensure the safety of the pets and the handlers.

Veterinary Services

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

Dr. Mark Schmidt is our full time veterinarian and has been with us for seven years. We also have six part time veterinarians available on an as needed basis. Dr. Ethan Mosley works for an emergency referral veterinary service and can work with us on a part time basis. He is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Kathy Vattthyam is also a graduate of Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and is available on an as needed basis. She has prior experience in shelter medicine with a sanctuary/shelter in North Fort Myers.

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

Veterinary Practices

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="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$19.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$34.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$27.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$42.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$115.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$115.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 Required Optional Not Available No 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:

If our clients pay for additional services, it is usually FVRCP or DA2PP

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
Gulf Coast Humane Society GCHS	As with LCDAS, they refer clients to us when it is easier for the client to get to our facility. We frequently take in pets from our clients who can no longer care for them. We have an elderly population and our clients frequently move to assisted living facilities and can no longer care for their pets. We perform spay/neuter surgeries and other medical assistance and then move them to GCHS for adoption. We also work together sharing information when we are looking for an additional veterinarian or technician. We frequently discuss ways to attract the clients that need us but are not reaching out to us. Our directors communicate frequently about a situation with a pet or a family that needs assistance. I always say that Lee County is the poster child for community collaboration when it comes to animal welfare.
Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS)	We share referrals to find the most convenient location for our clients. They have handouts in their lobby which lists PAWS as an option for spay/neuter services. We are listed on their web site as an affordable spay/neuter option. The animal control officers that are assigned to our part of the county frequently give out our information for spay/neuter services.

Other Information

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

We have many clients who do not have the \$100 for large dog spay or neuter surgery. They come to us with \$10 or \$20 or occasionally \$50. With this grant we will be able to help at least 325 clients obtain the surgery for their cat(s) and/or dog(s). It will enable us to turn down almost no one and encourage those who are hesitant to spay/neuter because of the price.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 100 **Dogs:** 225

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$77.00

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

All expenses are included in the grant. If they request a microchip, heartworm test, Leuk/AIDS test or vaccine, then the client will pay extra. We will recommend these procedures/products but they are not required.

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

At this time, for this particular program we are not applying for other grants or have any targeted fundraising efforts.

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

100

Timeline

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

Projected start date: 08/01/20/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/21

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 always been able to provide some surgeries at almost no cost (probably 50 to 100 per year). These are paid for by the operating funds that we receive from paying clients. We just can't provide the number of free or subsidized surgeries from operating revenue that we can from grant funds. We have received funds in the past from PetSmart, Maddies Fund and DJ&T. In addition, we have a group of local supporters who have followed us for many years. They routinely make donations to us and are always available when special circumstances arise.

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 have always promoted the purchase of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License plates through Facebook and our PAWS web site. We have reported how the success of the license plate program is crucial to dealing with the dog and cat overpopulation problem in our communities. We point out the Florida Animal Friend brochures to our clients that are in our front lobby. We always mention the program when we speak at organizations in our community.