

Grant ID: 1920

**Title of Proposal:** SRC Community Cat Program

**Agency Type:** Municipal

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

**Check Payable To:** Santa Rosa County Animal Services

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Santa Rosa County Animal Services

**Website Address:** santarosa.fl.gov/animals

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Tara Deaguilera

**Position:** Kennel Technician 3

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** tarad@santarosa.fl.gov

**Agency Head:** Dora Thomason

**Agency Head Email:** dorat@santarosa.fl.gov

**Organization Business Address:** 4451 Pine Forest Rd

**State:** Florida

**City:** Milton

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 850-983-4680

**Zip:** 32583

**Cell:** 850-530-5128

**Fax:** 850-983-4686

Agency Details

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

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/18 **End:** 09/30/19

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,661,730.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,661,730.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 20 Part Time: 3

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 10

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 15.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** We have previously been a grant recipient.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2007, 2012, 2014,2018 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2016

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
55	2009	Santa Rosa Animal Friend	Denied
123	2010	A HELPING HAND FOR PAWS AND PURRS	Funded
301	2012	One Pet at a TIme	Funded

1397	2014	BE A PET CHAMPION	Funded
1608	2007		Funded
1684	2016	Spay and Neuter Is A Lifesaver	Denied
1812	2018	Litter Free Is The Way To Be	Funded
1920	2020	SRC Community Cat Program	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:**

**2104 cats and 1857 dogs were admitted.**

**426 cats and 480 dogs were adopted.**

**1143 cats and 388 dogs were euthanized.**

**426 cats and 480 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

**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.**

In recent years, Santa Rosa County had a higher euthanasia rate than any other county in Florida. But thanks to lifesaving programs and partners such as Florida Animal Friend, our shelter and community have made great strides to reduce this number. For example, during the fiscal 2017/18 year, 3033 cats and kittens were euthanized. By 2018/19, that number had dropped to 1143. In addition, we have recently implemented a return to field program. This has proven to be one of the most effective ways to save more lives. The program works by altering, vaccinating, and returning healthy pets that have been brought to the shelter back to their outdoor homes. The program has been established with guidance from Jessica Gutmann, an employee of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. She has been embedded in our shelter to assist with operational and program improvements to save more lives. We also have an experienced staff ready to successfully help the public with spay/neuter scheduling. In addition, Janice Melton, our administrative staff member, has been in charge of our organization for all past awards and continues to be an asset to make sure the program runs smoothly.

**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?**

All cats and dogs currently adopted out from Santa Rosa County Animal Services are spayed/neutered prior to adoption. We adopted out 906 cats and dogs last year. We have also tagged approximately 3800.00 to our current budget for our new return to field program. With the addition of our surgery suite, we will be able to provide more surgeries for the animals in our community. With support from Florida Animal Friend grant, we can make a more significant impact by increasing our spay/neuters.

### Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Santa Rosa county
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	184,313
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	9.5
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	55853
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	46079
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	30719
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2104
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1857
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1143
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	388
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
Santa Rosa County has a widespread community cat overpopulation. Since it is not specific to one area, our target area will be the entirety of the county.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
Community cats are the most substantial source of overpopulation in Santa Rosa County. As in the rest of Florida, cats are being euthanized at nearly three times the rate of dogs. For example, in 2018-2019 we euthanized over 1100 felines in comparison to approximately 400 canines. By targeting the community cat population, as well as our new return to field program, we can dramatically reduce the euthanasia rate and save hundreds of lives.	
<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>	
Santa Rosa County does not have a low cost spay/neuter facility, which means residents and rescue groups must travel out of the county to access affordable pet services. We partner with A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County, a local animal welfare organization that transports cats and dogs to a low cost clinic located two counties away. In addition to the volunteer hours needed to prepare for each transport, A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County makes the four hour, 250 mile round trip drive every two weeks. Appointment spots are full within hours, showing the need for further services.	
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input 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.**

Given that the community cat populations are in all areas of Santa Rosa County, this grant effort would cover the entirety of Santa Rosa County, which is approximately 1,174 square miles.

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

Since there are currently no low cost spay/neuter services in Santa Rosa County, all community cats (owned and unowned) will be eligible for this lifesaving program. This service will be offered at no cost to the public. This will remove barriers and provide access to spay/neuter services.

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

We will not have a specific targeted area, as this service will be offered to the county as a whole.

**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.**

The Santa Rosa County community is very supportive of the tnr/community cat movement. In addition, A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County continues to educate and assist our county citizens on spay/neuter, return to field, feeding stations, and medical care. With this combined effort, we can work towards the cats becoming part of the community instead of a nuisance.

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

Yes

**Please explain what is allowed:**

Our current statues support free roaming cats. They are exempt from leash law criteria.

**(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:**

Our rescue partner, A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County, is very supportive of our new initiatives. They have worked hand in hand with our shelter to bring forward positive change in the cat overpopulation issue.

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

We share the same goal as wildlife advocates and members of the community, which is to reduce the number of free-roaming cats in Santa Rosa County. Return to field programs, along with trap neuter release, is the most effective and humane way to reduce overpopulation. Along with this work, we provide education to citizens on ways they can help to lessen the impact on local wildlife.

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

Education is the key to making sure there are minimal issues. We can provide our citizens with resources and information on ways to address any nuisance problems, such as website information and fact sheets. We have recently ordered cat deterrents so that we may assist citizens with any issues. By being part of the solution, we can continue to build support for this lifesaving program.

**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 focus will be community cats. For example, in one week our shelter takes approximately 40-50 calls asking for assistance in this matter. By providing affordable spay/neuter services, we are setting up our community for success. This will focus on the cats outside of the shelter. Our shelter has also recently started a return to field program for cats coming into the shelter. This will allow us to tackle this issue in complimentary ways that benefit the community.

## Objectives

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

Our goal is to make a direct impact on the community cat overpopulation in Santa Rosa County by working with local citizens to alter 500 cats. In combination with our recent return to field program at the shelter, we can make a strong focus on the community cat issue. While citizens continue to demonstrate their desire to be part of the solution, lack of affordable care in our area has been a major stumbling block. This grant will allow us to increase our save rate as well as be a resource for the community.

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

Our new return to field will target cats that are trapped and brought into the shelter, but there is no assistance specifically marked for community cats who may be being cared for by a resident of our county. If a citizen calls us with a group of cats needing help, we want to offer them a solution instead of leaving it on their shoulders. With your help, we can provide this for our community by expanding our return to field program to include community cat spay/neuter services. This will reduce the number of cats entering the shelter, as well as save hundreds of cat lives. It will also free up space and resources for adoptable animals at the shelter.

**Methods**

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

The criteria used for this program is that the feline must be from Santa Rosa County. The citizen will also be required to transport the animal for the service. By keeping it simple, we can offer this living saving surgery to more cats.

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

We will leverage multiple avenues to advertise the community cat program. Santa Rosa County Animal Services has strong partnerships with local media outlets, with which our public information office, will share program information. Additionally, we have a robust Facebook community with over 8,000 followers. Social media will be one of the best platforms to share this directly with our community. great working relationship with local media outlets. We will utilize our public information office to share that information to them , as well as to our social media platforms. We especially have a very strong Facebook community, so this will be one of our best ways of getting this information out. We currently have over 8000 Facebook followers. We can use that platform to share this directly with our community. .

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

Communication and education are the two main tools we will use to handle any barriers for this program. Our staff will be available to educate the community via social media, as well as one on one conversations. A good conversation can make the difference in many hurdles that arise. We have not had any issues with language barriers, but if the need arises we can reach out to our local law enforcement as well as our volunteers.

**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.**

Our community cat program will not provide transportation ,since our ACO staff is limited by a high call volume. However, we have a very supportive animal welfare/volunteer community who can assist clients and their community cats with transportation.

**Veterinary Services**

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

We have a great working relationship with Pensacola Humane Society , who has a low cost spay/neuter clinic in our neighboring county. They have agreed to give us up to 2 days per month to schedule our appointments, so that we have no issue of getting these surgeries booked. We have also partnered with A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County, who is a local animal welfare organization. They have agreed to slot us 5 appointments per transport for our shelter. And finally, our shelter is in the middle of adding on a surgery suite. Once this is completed, we will be able to add appointments at our facility as well. We are currently about 3-4 weeks away from having our temporary suite up and running. The permanent surgery suite is scheduled to be completed in 10-12 months.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County: Operation Spay Bay	5755 Washington St	Milton	FL	32583	850-665-0511	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensacola Humane Society: Barbara Grice Memorial Spay and Neuter Clinic	5 N Q St	Pensacola	FL	32505	850-898-3380	<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	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</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>Microchip</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other</b>	<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 rabies vaccination and ear tipping will be done at no charge and is included with the spay/neuter service.

**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
A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County	A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County is a local animal welfare organization making huge strides in our area. They have agreed to give us 5 slots per transport so that we can get these animals booked immediately as the need arises. They have also agreed to the same fee schedule as our other group on board.
Pensacola Humane Society	The Pensacola Humane Society clinic has agreed to allow us one to two surgery days per month to schedule our surgery appointments. This will allow us to have the bulk of them done in one spot and make the process more streamlined for everyone involved . They are supportive of our mission to offer low cost spay/neuter services to our community. They have agreed to our fee schedule and continue to support us in our goals for the shelter.

## Other Information

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

Together with Florida Animal Friend, Santa Rosa County Animal Services is committed and eager to tackle community cat overpopulation with force. To complement our efforts, A Hope 4 Santa Rosa County is also applying for support, which indicates the immense need in our county. With your help, we can provide spay/neuter services for community cats at no charge to our citizens, encouraging them to be part of the solution without placing a financial burden on them. We are thankful for Florida Animal Friend's support over the years and appreciate this consideration to help the cats of Santa Rosa County!

## Budget

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

**Cats:** 500 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$50.00

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

Ear tipping will be done as a no fee service for this project. In addition, we will provide rabies vaccinations if needed so there is no additional cost to the citizen.

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

Last year, our county ordinances were changed to support community cats. This allows the opportunity to begin monetary support for this community issue. For our current budget, we have added an additional 3800.00 for return to field alters for cats brought in to the shelter. These cats are also community cats, so this funding will help with the main goal of altering as many as we can.

### **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:** 10/01/20/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/21

### **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.**

Our shelter is currently adding a surgery suite to our facility. This is an amazing step forward for our shelter. Once this is completed, we will be doing our return to field surgeries here at the shelter. We will also continue to solicit funds from the community via our Partners For Pets Program, which is a donation program designed specifically to benefit the animals in our county. Santa Rosa County Animal Services uses these funds for spay/neuter as well as specific medical services. As our shelter continues to effect positive change, the community support grows as well! We are also actively applying for more grants and programs that can help us to obtain future funding. Our mission is that any citizen that needs assistance with spay/neuter for their pet has an option to provide this life saving service. Decreasing unwanted litters =decreasing euthanasia. This is the goal for both our shelter and our citizens.

**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.**

As a previous grant recipient, we understand the importance of the license plate promotion. These funds come back directly into the community to help our animals. We will continue to promote this wonderful program in many ways. We have a Facebook presence of several thousand followers, and this will be promoted there. We also have a great working relationship with our local media. Particularly in the last year, we have made huge strides at our shelter. For this reason, the local news media has been extremely supportive of our mission and is always willing to do stories or promote any programs that we have. We will continue to utilize our public information office, who does a fantastic job of making sure this grant is promoted with our print, social media, as well as our website.