

Grant ID: 1909

**Title of Proposal:** SURVIVING COVID: Suwannee County Feline Spay/Neuter Assistance Grant

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

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

**Check Payable To:** Suwannee PAWS Inc

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Suwannee PAWS Inc.

**Website Address:** http://www.traciedanielsdvm.com/

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Tracie A Daniels

**Position:** Founding Director

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** ufnetvet@msn.com

**Agency Head:** Colleen Burke

**Agency Head Email:** horses5665@gmail.com

**Organization Business Address:** 9667 US Highway 129

**City:** Live Oak

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 32060

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 386-362-1754

**Fax:**

**Cell:** 386-209-1054

Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 02/19/2014

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/19 **End:** 12/31/19

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$220,865.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$220,357.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 1 Part Time: 6

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 1

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 24.00

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

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 1 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1429	2014	Suwannee County, Florida Feral and Community Cat Initiative 2014	Denied (not completed)
1742	2017	Suwannee County Feral and Community Cat Initiative	Denied (not completed)
1788	2018	SPAYS for the STRAYS...and other PARLEYS	Funded
1909	2020	SURVIVING COVID: Suwannee County Feline Spay/Neuter Assistance Grant	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**
- TNR Group**
- Rescue Group**
- Other**

**List your current board of directors:**

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Colleen Burke	President	813-833-8554	Store manager
Mary Daniels	Secretary	386-935-1689	Retired
Ross Sears	Treasurer	386-935-2499	Retired

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**187 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.**

**192 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.**

**1 cats and 0 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. Since our organization is first and foremost dedicated to high-volume spay/neuter surgery, we sterilize all animals before we put them up for adoption. There are no exceptions.

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

All are sterilized before adoption. We do have a program to donate spay/neuter services to recently adopted cats from our county shelter, because they do not sterilize 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.**

This spay/neuter clinic was founded in 2014 and has grown into a 5-day per week operation with a full standalone facility dedicated to pet overpopulation, reduced-cost veterinary care, feline shelter outreach, a base for TNR and community cats, and a successful feline adoption program. From a facility standpoint, our newly renovated building has additional and separate housing for feline surgery patients, community feline rescues, a feline shelter outreach isolation ward, a feline outpatient drop off area, and separate racks for feral/TNR/trapped cats. We also have increased capacity for small and medium sized dogs in a separate dog kennel. We currently perform surgery three days a week, averaging 3-4 hours per day. Other program services are spread out over the remainder of the workweek and during weekends (adoption events pre-COVID). We have the ability to increase daily feline surgery numbers and to do overflow on current non-surgery days if needed. As a lifelong fifth-generation resident of this county, our veterinarian founded the clinic after seeing an unmet need in this rural area. In 2015, through generous sponsorship by The Neighborhood Cats, she was sent to Humane Alliance for advanced surgical training. Dr. Daniels was also a high-volume relief vet who worked throughout state of Florida before opening Suwannee PAWS. She is approaching 30,000 career surgeries, approximately 20,000 of which have been performed locally through previous work in Hamilton and Suwannee counties. She has also completed the Community Cat Management Class at UF, and also previously helped coach veterinary students in spay/neuter at Operation Catnip's mass spay events on weekends. She fully supports and respects the ongoing efforts by that group. Dr. Daniels has also been a member of the AAFP, ASV, and is very active behind the scenes encouraging local political leaders to understand the value of responsible animal sheltering and TNR. Dr. Daniels also helps advise local TNR caretakers regarding principles of trap-out, feeding only to capacity, population dynamics, and sick cat management. She has also reached out to provide intake and disease management advice to local animal shelters. Our clinic has the same support staff we started with in 2014 plus two additional employees at this time. They all have varying backgrounds but have been working in the high-volume surgery field for five years now. Just before COVID-19, we had discussed hiring a part-time kennel technician, and will resume that search very soon if the budget permits. Suwannee PAWS is dedicated to serving local needs, and we prioritize Suwannee County first, followed by those counties that are adjacent to us. We do not restrict our services based on residence (except for grants that have a target area), and we have clients who drive many hours to get to us. We encourage the grant committee to visit our facility any time but we also have many pictures of our hospital wards on our Google Business site.

**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 a small clinic that was exclusively founded for the purpose of spay/neuter. Since our demographic is so small, and we are in a very poor rural area of the state, we offer routine services at a reduced breakeven cost so that we are solvent. We are dramatically lower than our full-service neighboring veterinary clinics, but our prices are often too high for those with severe economic restrictions. This is especially true for our clients who care for feral cat colonies, since they seem to be predominantly managed by senior and retired caretakers on low fixed monthly incomes. This is where grant programs come in to help us, so that we can extend our high-quality services to those who need it the most. Until COVID-19, our program revenues had increased yearly by about 10%, but this year it will be impacted by the pandemic. We had been on track to do approximately 2,000 surgeries this year based on a 3-day per week surgery schedule; we were down due to the coronavirus and still have not resumed full surgeries. March is normally our busiest month each year, but we were down 85% in 2020. Grant funding is needed now more than ever to help clients not neglect spay/neuter while they are getting back on their feet. Overall clinic revenues, including outpatient wellness, have historically accounted for 90% of our operating budget. We have a separate grant and donations account which allows us to easily track the use of funding toward specific programs.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Suwannee Valley Region
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	102586
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	22
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	31087
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	25647
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	17098
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	526
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	852
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	52
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	75

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

Animal control data for the above categories is from our main municipal shelter in Suwannee County, but most of our surrounding areas in the five-county target area do not have formal animal control or a shelter facility. Our organization continues to propose that while these estimated numbers based on population seem reasonable for dogs, they significantly underestimate the actual feline population. In our area of the state, we have an abundance of yards, a plethora of mobile home and RV parks, and many more abandoned mobile homes. We also have a great deal of unused cars and junk automobiles sitting around "for parts" in businesses and yards. Abandoned vehicles, mobile homes, and agricultural equipment all serve as a huge reservoir for mice and rats which feed and provide cover to feral and community cats. (We are available for tours...) Our rural location naturally enables hoarding cases. Just six weeks prior to this grant, there was yet another massive hoarding case of over 100 animals just down the road in Suwannee County (front page Suwannee Democrat March 11); we have seen many of these in recent years finally coming under prosecution. In addition, the rural garbage collection sites all over our region serve as natural food sources for feral and community cats, and unfortunately have become a great location for irresponsible owners to dump and abandon cats. The chain link fencing prohibits most dogs from going into the sites but cats easily go through the holes, over the gates, and through the spaces where the gates close.

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

Several members of our staff have resided in this county for decades, which gives us a very good perspective on this problem. The general population still has not accepted spay/neuter in dogs or cats as a standard of care. With regard to dog overpopulation, it is primarily medium and large breed dogs. A fair percentage are from hunters with large numbers of hounds and curs who wander, but there are also many stray and homeless Pit Bull dogs roaming around. In the south end of our county there are also notable small aggregates of semi-feral dogs who live in the pine forests from feral hog carcasses and coyote prey remnants. However, the major problem still resides with owned dogs who have a home and/or feeding base. Regarding cat overpopulation, the answer to the previous question notes the highlights of the reservoirs of free-roaming and feral population of cats (mobile homes, abandoned cars and equipment, garbage sites, food establishments). However, something we appreciated with the 2018-19 grant was the large number of owned free-roaming cats and community cats who are in need (versus true ferals). Basic medical and preventive care for cats is not sought here nearly as frequently as it is for dogs. So much more the need for spay/neuter of owned cats. In this way, an "owned" yard cat quickly becomes a free-roaming outdoor cat at night with a range of several miles, and can just as easily contribute to the problem.

**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?**

Our county has many private veterinarians for such a rural area, but most people whose animals are contributing to overpopulation are not going to full-service practices. Many don't see a veterinarian regularly. The limiting factors to at-risk populations (those most likely to contribute to the problem) of dogs and cats are primarily: 1) financial and 2) perception/mindset. We could literally add ten more spay/neuter facilities such as ours, but unless we can get the cost down per animal and convince citizens to routinely spay/neuter, people will not spend the money. A point we wish to emphasize here is that although our target area encompasses some of the poorest counties in the state, even owners who can afford spay/neuter haven't adopted it as necessary until their dog/cat gets pregnant, and often not even until those offspring have then subsequently become pregnant. There is clearly still unmet need for cats. We continue to be contacted by people from our county and neighboring counties who have mass numbers of cats who need to be sterilized, and finances are normally the limiting factor in these cases. With regard to the available services in surrounding counties (Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor, Dixie, west Columbia), there are no other clinics who have staff trained and certified

in high-volume spay/neuter by Humane Alliance/ASPCA, and while Columbia is in the early phase of adding this service, their operation is not fully permitted by the state and cannot yet legally work on animals from the general public. In Suwannee County, we are the only clinic whose founding purpose is specifically dedicated to spay/neuter, and we continue to also be the only clinic that adopts, adheres to, and exceeds the ASV Standards of Care as facility guidelines with a full-time veterinarian.

**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 **Post-adoption spay/neuter of 30-50 shelter cats**

## 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 have not changed our primary target area from the 2018 grant since our work here is not complete. The primary target area is Suwannee County (689 sq mi), especially focusing this grant cycle on the south part of the county. In addition, since a 15-minute drive will reach five additional counties, we also continue to target the immediate 30-mile radius from our clinic. This includes parts of Hamilton, Madison, Lafayette, Dixie and west Columbia (data used to generate Target Population).

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

Eligibility: Free-roaming cats, stray cats, owned community cats, and feral cats or kittens who live in the target area and receive a mandatory left ear-tip. Target Area: Population dynamics dictate that focusing on a specific area produces the most comprehensive results, so we will primarily focus on cats inside our county but also allow those within 30 miles from our business.

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

The Suwannee Valley Region is overwhelmingly rural, with the majority of land used for agricultural purposes (Ag-1 and Ag-2 zoning). In the cities of Live Oak and Branford, and even in outlying residential locations, there are many abandoned or low-income housing areas which are contributing to a large cat breeding reservoir. There continue to be over 3,000 abandoned housing units in our county per the census report.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :** 7300

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 3000

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 600

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

We monitor and care for existing colonies through established caretakers. We are pleased to announce that in the past year we have added a new proactive TNR group (SCSN) which is facilitating outreach to the south part of our county. This group has taken over feeding for one deceased caretaker and they are currently going door-to-door in the county's higher-risk areas. They also hand out ACA literature in English and Spanish and continue to meet with city and county leaders with our support.

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

Yes

**Please explain what is allowed:**

There are no trapping restrictions, but there is a loosely-enforced feeding ban specifically at county garbage collection sites. Managers at the sites frequently call us to notify our staff members when friendly cats are abandoned, so we can rehome them through adoptions. We continue periodic updates to our city and county officials to explain our mission, with considerable good reception at this time. [The feeding ban was primarily a heated reaction to one individual's actions many years ago].

**(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 TNR program is supported by the county Sheriff, who has been in attendance with us at town council meetings during recent discussions regarding our services. We have the support of several county commissioners and town council members. We also work closely with a new proactive TNR group which has organized in Live Oak (Suwannee County Spay/Neuter, group leader Cassie Branske and volunteer Teresa Rider). The main county shelters within Suwannee and Madison counties support our efforts.

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

Ironically, the immediate answer to this statement is that providing responsible and targeted TNR is actually a means in and of itself to lessen the impact ferals may have on local wildlife populations. Local wildlife enthusiasts as well as informed caretakers often both agree that the goal of TNR is to limit the unchecked breeding of feral and community cats and decrease colony numbers over time. Fewer cats leads to a lessened impact on wildlife. In addition, we have again reached out to our

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

Our veterinarian takes community emails and personally handles requisitions for feral cat help, in addition to any associated concerns or nuisance complaints. We also have nuisance-related ACA literature in English and Spanish in our lobby, and it is being slowly distributed by our new TNR group. The majority of complaints come in to our largest county shelter in McAlpin. We are continually building educational relationships with our shelter staff regarding implementation of TNR and SNR.

**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.**

We would like to take this space to mention that we also have a great collaborative relationship with other local full-service veterinary clinics. There are two neighboring clinics who routinely send us the majority of their spay/neuter surgeries, and the others send clients that have TNR's or who cannot afford services at that clinic. It is the sincerest compliment to have these referrals, especially at a time where many spay/neuter clinics are under fire in the profession as a whole.

## Objectives

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

With a budget of \$25,000, we will sterilize a minimum of 600 feral and community cats within our target area, focusing primarily on Suwannee County in areas we have not yet reached including the south end of the county. The final number of cats sterilized will depend on the distribution of males and females brought in through the program. An additional goal is to decrease median feline shelter intake at our county shelter by 10%, excluding outliers such as mass hoarding cases which skewed this year's intake numbers for both dogs and cats. We would also like to provide between 30 and 50 cats with free post-adoption spay/neuter, to the residents of our county who adopted from the shelter. (Our county does not spay/neuter before adoption or transfer). This is roughly 33 to 50% of the verified cat adoptions from our local county facility during 2019 (100 cats adopted in 2019). We are pleased to report that approximately 35 cats were adopted due to an aggressive adoption campaign by our clinic promoting free vet services for locally adopted cats to decrease shelter euthanasia. We continued this program after that initial media blitz to incentivize feline adoption. (Suwannee County Animal Services)

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

We have discussed in other sections of this proposal that one of the two primary limiting resources for TNR is cost. We already serve a consistent segment of the human population at our clinic, but grants such as this one allow us to extend services to those who would not otherwise financially be able to come to us. This seems to be especially true for feral and community cat caretakers, more than any other collective group we serve. [Can't remember a time here when someone came and said, "Hey I'm very wealthy and I manage a feral cat colony...."] As a recent example, our implementation of the 2018 FAF grant resulted in a 40-55% increase in the number of feral and community cat surgeries per month. This comparison was made between the time frame that grant funding was available--roughly a 7-month stretch from November through May--for the preceding year (2018) and the grant-funded year (2019). The same trend has held true for the beginning of 2020 but is skewed downward due to COVID-19 clinic impacts.

## Methods

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

Grant funding will be designated to include true feral cats, unowned free-roaming community cats, owned or rescued strays, and owned free-roaming cats including barn cats. All cats must be left ear tipped, even if they are highly socialized. Population dynamics dictate that focusing on a smaller geographic area will provide a more meaningful result over time. Cats must be close to 2 pounds minimum weight and healthy enough for surgery. True ferals and unsocialized cats must arrive in traps. Cats presented for sterilization surgery must reside in and/or be trapped in Suwannee County, but we will also extend limited eligibility within a 30-mile radius from our clinic, as stated previously in this application. Several county lines are only a few miles away from our clinic. To achieve this distinction we use a common sense approach, designated zipcodes, and Google Maps. Please see our previous grant report for 2018-19 which clearly shows that we were very judicious in targeting a geographical area to have the most impact. Finally, part of this grant request is also to extend grant funding to provide free spay/neuter to new owners who have adopted intact cats from our county shelter. There is currently no spay/neuter before adoption, and we continue to donate 100% of the spay/neuter cost to all people who adopt cats from our county shelter. If funding permits we would like to use this grant to help offset our costs per cat for this program, with a target of 30-50 cats. New owners must present adoption paperwork and have the sterilization scheduled within 30 days of adoption unless a medical deferment is given.

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

As we have noted previously, when we received this grant previously we did not need to advertise! We actually had to take measures to try to extend the grant's funding as far as we could and still only made it approximately 6.5 months before funding was utilized. However if we need additional promotion, we have all these means available to us in the unlikely event that cats stop coming: We have our current list of active TNR groups, managed colonies, and our new community cat outreach liasons who will be the first line of getting the word out. We have recently implemented a text messaging service with feral cat caretakers in a group. We will make the traditional announcements on social media pages and we can target audiences if needed. We always have announcements in our lobby. We have a website and zipcode-targeted mass mailouts through the post office at our disposal. We also have an outstanding relationship with local media including local newspapers, radio, and the Chamber of Commerce email blasts when we promote an event. The most exciting aspect of this is our new TNR group liasons who go door-to-door in Branford and to the south end of our county while passing out Alley Cat Allies literature in English and Spanish. We have made recent presentations to town council members, and they continue to ask for business cards and have people they personally know who need our services.

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

The great news here is that our new partnership with the local TNR group has recently expanded our outreach through a grass-roots effort, which

includes bilingual handouts and person-to-person communication, as well as providing trapping advice and "how to use a trap" in-person demonstrations. Town council members are also directing us to the specific geographic areas of concern and code enforcement officers are informing residents about our program in high-risk areas prone to pet overpopulation. We continue to have several historically dependable individuals who do most of the legwork with our actively managed colonies, local retirement villages (a hot spot for cat dumping), most of the county dumpsites, many of the fast-food establishments and convenience stores. We have one part-time employee who speaks Spanish and she is of tremendous help when Spanish speaking clients come in our clinic. With regard to transportation, we do not have a way to provide this for clients at this time. It is certainly a longer-term goal of our outreach. Our liasons distribute the literature, traps, and education, but individuals are responsible for bringing in their own cats at this time.

**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.**

All transportation is currently done privately by clients/caretakers.

**Veterinary Services**

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

We are a high-volume spay/neuter facility and will perform all surgeries at our clinic.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Suwannee PAWS, Inc.	9667 US Highway 129	Live Oak	Florida	32071	386-362-1754	<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="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
<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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
<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 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="\$17.00"/>
<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="\$26.50"/>
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$26.50"/>
<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

**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:**

The first note is that feline HW testing and FeLV/FIV testing are one combined fee of \$26.50 for the IDEXX SNAP Triple Test, these are not two separate charges in cats. Items that are required for every surgery which are included in our \$25 fee to the client include a Rabies vaccination, an FVRCP vaccine, and perioperative pain medication. In addition, we routinely provide exceptional comprehensive care including fluids, vitamin injections (B complex and/or cobalamin), antiemetics when needed, oral glucose or Enercal, steroids for severe allergic dermatoses, ivermectin treatment for ear mites, and when available, donated flea prevention medications and/or items such as Bravecto which have been donated to us by corporations. All these services are provided and documented as "supportive care," and are provided at no additional cost to the client. Most of these cats are in very rough shape, anemic, and females are usually pregnant. All female cats receive Onsior and Buprenorphine for perioperative pain. Our post-operative pain medication regimen to go home may include up to two more days of Onsior for advanced pregnant [socialized]females, plus or minus additional oral buprenorphine. For male cats, one dose of meloxicam is routinely given to healthy hydrated cats, and a decreased dose of Onsior is given with fluid therapy to unhealthy or dehydrated male cats. Suwannee PAWS will absorb these additional pain medication costs as our part of the project (we currently absorb these costs already in our feral packages). We also cover wound care, wound repair, and Convenia or other antibiotic protocols as needed.

**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
Catherine Rountree	Catherine Rountree is a gem! She is our most dedicated senior citizen who helps trap, sponsor, foster, rehome and spay stray and feral cats who come across her path at the Advent Christian Villiage in Dowling Park. Catherine also shares part-time colony caretaking duties with other seniors. She is on a short list (four people) to whom we extend special year-round feral pricing.
Fix Them All (formerly Pay To Spay)	Alachua county-based Fix Them All has collaborated with us now for just over one year. Although their focus is primarily on owned socialized cats and dogs, on occasion they have approved a community cat or owned barn cat through our TNR program. We are very fortunate to have this program reach out to our region through our spay/neuter facility.
Local print media and radio stations	Whenever we have asked, the local radio station (Big 98), newspaper outlets (Suwannee Valley Times and Suwannee Democrat) have helped us put out PSA's and educational articles highlighting the programs we offer. They have helped us reach the most people for specific events and announcements such as the mass blitz feline adoption campaign a year ago where we offered free veterinary care if locals would adopt a cat from our shelter to prevent euthanasia.
SCAS	(Suwannee County Animal Services) The largest municipal shelter in our county, SCAS has seen staff turnover in recent years but they have allowed us to work with them to pull adoptable cats. Recently, we have added new in-clinic adoption feline housing that decreases our reliance on fosters (many of whom are in isolation from COVID). This gives people who call in to the shelter another option for unwanted socialized cats, if the shelter is full or the client does not meet their managed intake restrictions, they refer them to us. We have included letters from this facility in the uploaded files section of this grant.

Name	Level of Involvement
SCSN	Suwannee County Spay-Neuter is a new organization currently dedicated to TNR in Suwannee County. Group leader Cassie Branske has personally started a highly effective grassroots campaign that goes door-to-door in our area to educate the public and business owners about the principles of TNR. She and Dr. Daniels have also met personally with the Sheriff, commissioners, town council leaders, and shelter administrators. She also has a main volunteer named Teresa who helps with the south end of Suwannee County.
SCSO	(Suwannee County Sheriff's Office) We have a good relationship with the current Sheriff, who is familiar with our spay/neuter and rescue mission in the county, and the SCSO Lieutenant who is also currently the interim county animal shelter director. We continue to update them both with our progress as it relates to the county residents, shelter, and feline programs. They have each also met several times with other organizations such as our new local TNR group.
SREC	We have recently reached out to the Suwannee River Economic Council Senior Program Coordinator, to help us extend free or reduced-cost veterinary services to seniors in need. Our plan is to continue communicating with them each time we have an outreach project.
The Purring Station	Owner Irene Miesel has one of only two other feline-only 501(c)(3)'s in our region. Dr. Daniels has worked with her doing TNR for years, but she has working relationships with many clinics to meet all her needs. We also work with Irene to network out some of her adoptable cats through our PetSmart adoption program. She is responsible for trapping and rescuing all over the county, including pulling cats occasionally from our county shelter.

**Other Information**

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

With specific reference to successful TNR in Suwannee County, there is a certain engrained predominating Southeastern mindset that we have to slowly overcome. Put frankly, this is more of a "hunting dog" county. Yet, it is a massive advantage that those of us promoting TNR have been here a long time and that we have ongoing working relationships with the members of our community as well as other veterinary practices. It is no secret that this region of the state is rural and still largely naïve to the principles of TNR. It is still a very novel concept here. TNR here is an ongoing process with many moving parts, with many areas for continued improvement. Never in the history of the county have more groups been actively trying to teach the residents and animal shelter programs the concepts and value of TNR. Many residents who come to us don't even realize they have enabled a "colony." Most here could still not even tell you what TNR stands for. Many do not understand that what we have actually accomplished is full "trap outs" of many small colonies. As we sat before the Branford Town Council just a few months ago discussing targeted trapping efforts inside the small city, never was this more apparent. We had more hardworking volunteers than ever, more public vocal support than we have ever previously noted, and longstanding community leaders were at least fully listening while acknowledging that they have a feral cat problem. There have been setbacks but there has been tremendous progress. We are making a difference. Our shelter has had months of fewer than 10 cats in occupancy, and only euthanized approximately 50 cats in 2019 most due to a panleukopenia outbreak in the summer. For a small poorly-funded shelter that does not even routinely provide cat veterinary care or spay/neuter before adoption, that is an outstanding statistic. We will continue with our comprehensive feline outreach programs, including TNR, and we encourage FAF to continue to be a part of it in 2020-21 by providing us with targeted grant funding.

**Budget**

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 600 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$42.00

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

Clients pay for the two vaccines and part of the pain medication (immediate peri-operative pain medication) with their \$25 co-pay. Additional expenses classified as "supportive care" that our clinic already assumes the cost of include but are not limited to: 1) Fluids, given under the skin after surgery 2) Recovery with flow-by oxygen for anemic or weak animals 3) Vitamin B complex injection and Cobalamin (vit B12) as dictated by our veterinarian 4) Oral glucose, Karo syrup, or Enercal postoperatively 5) Anti-emetics such as Ondansetron or Cerenia when indicated 6) Antacids such as famotidine when indicated 7) Steroids for extreme rodent ulcers, eosinophilic granulomas, or overwhelming allergic dermatoses 8) Intra-aural ivermectin for ear mite infections 9) Wound repair, Convenia for infections all included if client cannot help pay for these medications and services. 10) Clients are offered topical flea/deworming products at an additional fee, but often we donate these to extremely ill or parasitized cats if they cannot afford them. There are occasions during the year when manufacturers donate recently expired or returned in-date products which we can use on true ferals (examples include Frontline, Revolution, even Bravecto at times)

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

We have historically implemented a separate grants and donations account, where we keep our reserve capital. It includes earmarked program funding such as this grant. In addition, the remainder is undesignated reserve capital, which is the reservoir we have pulled from to support TNR-associated costs that we absorb such as all the nonsurgical supportive care we give each feral that comes through our program. Due to a decrease in program revenues because of the pandemic, there is currently no extra funding for allocation in the operating budget. As discussed in our Director's Letter of Support, our reserves coming into



2020 were already depleted from moving our entire clinic to a new location. We have held several local fundraisers and online fundraising campaigns but have not had much local success. We searched for local community foundations but to date have not found any that serve this county. The FAF grant program is one of the few that reaches smaller areas such as ours in the state of Florida. Our main local TNR partnership group, SCSN, has had more success raising funding directly on a per-cat basis through their door-to-door campaigns as they educate the public about options for free-roaming cats. Since we are in such an economic downturn, we are currently in discussions about hiring a formal animal grantwriter for the remainder of this year so we can replenish our reserves and budget deficits.

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

55

## Timeline

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

**Projected start date:** 10/01/20/ **Projected end date:** 08/30/21

### 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.**

As discussed in a previous section, our overall clinic operation and feline adoption outreach is approximately 90% sustained by our reduced-cost veterinary clinic services revenue. We have in the past 30 days seen the budget revenue projections decrease dramatically, so we are currently reviewing our grants calendar and researching which ones may best suit our overall clinic needs to include our feline outreach programs. We are also researching COVID-specific grants to see if they may apply to us, but these are all new grants that were not previously available. A local group of senior volunteers has also been organizing as of last November, but we asked them all to stay home during the pandemic. They have done several local fundraisers for us including at 2019 Christmas on the Square, Publix Supermarket parking lot donation events, and they had planned on having a large booth at our regional agricultural fair but it has since been canceled. We expect them to get back on track when the stay-at-home orders are lifted.

## 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 currently have links to the FAF program and license plate on our website in several locations. We also have all the Florida Animal Friend pamphlets and literature in our lobby. We also have acknowledgement of the FAF grant on a huge donor banner that is currently hanging overhead in our lobby. When we received the FAF grant two years ago, we also inserted a statement of acknowledgment on each client invoice when grant funding was used for their cat's surgery. This statement generously thanked the Florida Animal Friend, gave instruction how to purchase a plate, and encouraged feedback regarding our receipt of the grant. This was used to help people appreciate the subsidy that they had received and also helped us remember to discuss the program with them. When we receive the grant, we will issue social media and press releases including the initial grant award announcement, as well as updates to the program as it is implemented.