

Grant ID: 1987

Title of Proposal: Sterilization Campaign

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$24,675.00

Check Payable To: Clay County Humane Society, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Clay County Humane Society, Inc.

Website Address: www.ClayHumane.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Claire Hall

Position: Assistant Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: Claire@clayhumane.org

Agency Head: Linda Welzant

Agency Head Email: LWelzant@ClayHumane.org

Organization Business Address: 2230 Filmore Street

City: Orange Park

State: FL

Zip: 32065

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-276-7729

Fax: 904-276-4236

Cell: 904-626-1267

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 05/02/1981

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/20 **End:** 12/31/20

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$3,015,460.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,866,948.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 30 Part Time: 2

Number of Active Volunteers: 45

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 10.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2006,2008,2011,2013,2015,2017,2019 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2010

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
160	2010	2010 Spay Campaign	Denied (not completed)
267	2011	Feral Friday Campaign	Funded
369	2013	Operation Free Cat Sterilization	Funded
1489	2015	Free Feral	Funded
1587	2006		Funded
1588	2008		Funded
1710	2017	Focus on Ferals 2017	Funded
1871	2019	Project Pit Stop	Funded
1987	2021	Sterilization Campaign	Funded

Describe your Organization:
Services Provided

Organization Structure:

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

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

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Bob Ehrenberg	Vice President	904-264-9377	Retired - Computer Consultant
Christine Keyworth	Director	904-272-6733	Retired Educator
Doug Havens	Treasurer	904-272-4311	Contractor - NAS Jax
Gerald Milan	President	904-272-5130	Retired - Sheriff's Office
Judy Stebler	Director	904-465-1135	Nurse
Linda Lake	Secretary	904-910-2440	Supervisor - Seminole Electric
Lisa Lemen	Director	904-282-7422	Loan Officer
Mary Fortson	Director	904-608-3133	Retired Nurse
Nancy Simmons	Director	904-276-7729	Entrepreneur

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

60 cats and 15 dogs were admitted.

60 cats and 15 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

3601 cats and 716 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?

We are not, officially, an adoption facility, but we do care for and eventually place cruelty, neglect, and abandonment cases. All pets are sterilized prior to adoption.

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.

Since transitioning from a no-kill shelter to the area's first low cost clinic, Clay Humane has been on the frontline battling pet overpopulation in our community. In 2013, we launched a free cat spay/neuter program that saw the sterilization of over 30,000 cats, both owned and feral. Although COVID forced an end to this popular program, we intend to relaunch a new sterilization program for both cats and dogs this summer.

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?

Clay Humane's free cat sterilization program is the most recognized spay and neuter effort in our community. Because we were the only organization to offer completely free spays and neuters without restrictions and even without outside funding, the demand for appointments was great. COVID created obstacles to continuing this program in 2021, both physically and financially. To help meet the needs of cat owners and caregivers in our area, we increased our support staff and added an additional veterinarian, tripled the number of cat surgeries we performed each day, and designated Tuesdays as "Feral Day" on which no appointment is required (and as many as 75 feral cat spays and neuters are performed). Since launching the program, we have sterilized 31,384 in total, including over 9,000 feral cats— as many as were sterilized in the ten previous years total – preventing hundreds of thousands of unwanted births and, in turn, countless senseless deaths on streets and in shelters.

Although we offer the free service to cat owners/ feral caregivers anywhere, priority scheduling consideration is given to Clay County families and colonies. Our efforts are evident in the declining shelter cat intake numbers. In 2013, at the time of the program's inception, Clay County Animal Care and Control took in 2526 cats. In 2014, the shelter's cat intake dropped to 1942 and continued to drop in 2015 to a total cat intake of 1499. 2018 saw the lowest intake number (excluding TNR numbers) of less than 800 cats. This incredible decrease represents the most significant in shelter history, particularly as it is coupled with unprecedented human population growth in our community. Sadly, COVID created a set back that we hope to overcome in 2021-2022. We will expand this far-reaching program and plan to add free pit bull sterilizations to our efforts, as well. Despite our inspiring cat sterilization effects, many dogs still find their way to our area shelters. Most are pit bulls or pitbull mixes and hounds/ mixes who regularly are unsterilized and go unclaimed. It is our goal to direct efforts to reduce these numbers, as well.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Northeast Florida
Total human population in target area:	1,231,007
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	13.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	373033
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	307752
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	205168
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	n/a
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	n/a
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	n/a
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	n/a
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. n/a	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Our community is a mostly rural area comprised of low income families. Few affordable sterilization programs exist in the large target area that are capable of serving those whose budgets do not allow for even reduced rates. Our programs focus on these populations, feral colonies, and the pit bulls/ hounds who disproportionately fill our shelters.	
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? Private veterinary clinics offer sterilizations, but at costs outside of many pet owners' budgets. Other low cost options exist, but applications, distance to the site, and qualifying create obstacles to successful programs.	
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(s) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

TNR Managed Colony Feral Cat Program/Community Cats (Free-Roaming and/or Owned) Program

Define the precise boundaries of the colony or targeted area, including estimate of square miles.

Clay County feral populations are our primary focus, but we extend our free feral sterilizations to colony caregivers in surrounding counties, as well. Currently, we are focused on regaining control over colonies that were able to grow during the 2020 non-essential surgery restrictions. We estimate approximately 1400 feral cats will be sterilized from 6 colonies in Clay County, 3 in Putnam County, and 3 colonies in Bradford County.

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

We work with area colony caregivers to identify sterilization needs. We have no requirements for free feral sterilizations - the caregivers trap and transport.

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

Targeted populations for this request exist primarily in rural areas with the exception of one in the town of Orange Park that is in a commercial area.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 3000

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 1100

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 1400

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

The colonies we target are identified by caregivers that we have worked with since the programs' inception. They are dedicated to caring for these colonies.

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

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

Following lengthy debates before our County Commission, the combined efforts of area animal welfare advocates prevented the mass trapping and euthanasia of feral colony cats. TNR measures were approved for identified and future managed colonies with Clay Humane taking the lead on these efforts with our county's animal services.

(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:

In all county's that we assist with feline spay and neuter efforts, we are supported by the animal control services, governing bodies, rescues, and advocates.

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

As licensed wildlife rehabilitators, we have seen first hand the negative impact roaming cats can have on wildlife. As such, it is our goal to eliminate through adoption/ relocation programs cat colonies existing on public wooded lands first. These colonies remain a consistent priority as our efforts to protect wildlife helps foster goodwill between wildlife and feral advocates.

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

Over the years we have been called upon to assist with colonies on commercial lands that were facing euthanasia due to nuisance complaints. In many cases, Clay Humane performed free sterilization of the cats, provided colony management education, assisted with rehoming adoptable cats and, on occasion, relocated to private property, as needed.

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.

In its 8th year, our free feral cat sterilization program is essential. Covid restrictions caused us to lose some ground in our battle against the overpopulation of these colonies, but we are committed to regaining the upper hand in the fight. We are also, still focused on specific dog populations that are most common in our shelters.

Objectives

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

Our goal since transitioning to a low cost spay and neuter clinic in 1991 has always been to reduce/ eliminate the senseless euthanasia of healthy animals in our community. In conjunction with our county's TNR efforts, we expect to meet this goal in the near future. With funding, we will sterilize 1400 identified feral cats and 125 bully breeds and/or hounds that are most common in our area shelters.

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

COVID created a significant back up of cat spays and neuters. Funds normally directed to the program were redirected to ensure our clinic remained open and functioning during the pandemic. It will take time for us to return to the pre-pandemic numbers and funding, but we will get there. This year, we are focused primarily on feral populations and the breeds of dogs who most fill our shelters. Funding support will help us recover from pandemic shortages and will help breathe life back into our feral cat program.

Methods

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

There are no eligibility requirements aside from identified colonies via caregivers or animal control agencies. Anyone willing to trap and transport feral cats are eligible to receive free sterilization through this program.

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

Our cat program is very popular. Flyers, door hangers, and refrigerator magnets are available to many area county animal organizations and dispersed to the public as needed. Our website and social media accounts advertise our services, as well.

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

Through cooperative efforts with area shelters, rescue groups, volunteers, colony caregivers, advocates, media outlets and local business owners, we are better able to identify those in need. Together, we are able to trap, transport, release and control the growth of colonies and, in turn, shelter numbers. Our greatest struggle has been, and will likely remain, the stigma of neutering pit bulls in our, largely, rural community.

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.

The program does not involve transportation by staff, but relies on volunteers and private citizens to transport.

Veterinary Services

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

Clay Humane has operated a full service low cost veterinary clinic since 1991. We have 4 full time and 4 relief veterinarians committed to our mission of a no-kill community through spay and neuter efforts.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Clay County Humane Society	2230 Filmore Street	Orange Park	FL	32065	904-276-7729	<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, which is required) and not for other items such as testing, licensing, and capital purchases. However, \$2 per animal of grant funds can be used for rabies vaccination.

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$17.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$17.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.50"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.50"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$32.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$32.00"/>

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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	<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="\$15.00"/>
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<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="\$5.00"/>
HW Testing	<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="\$20.00"/>
Feline Leuk/FIV	<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="\$30.00"/>
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<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 which is required and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

Every Tuesday, Clay Humane performs up to 75 free feral spays and neuters including ear tipping, rabies vaccination, and pain medication. Funding would allow for 1400 feral cat sterilizations (840 females, 560 males) plus 125 dogs (75 females, 50 males).

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
5 C's Cat Care	Feral cat advocates within Town of Orange Park who oversee TNR efforts for area and transport to CCHS.
Clay County Animal Services	Cooperative TNR effort to identify and transport feral cats. Referral of spay/neuter services to community.

Other Information

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

To offset the setbacks created during the pandemic restrictions, we have scheduled weekend spay and neuter clinics throughout 2021.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 1400 **Dogs:** 125

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,675.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$22.00

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

Each year, our vendors generously donate doses of vaccines and microchips to help offset costs associated with our sterilization programs. We hope this remains the case, but are prepared to absorb these additional costs should it be necessary. Miscellaneous vaccinations, tests, etc are at owners' or caregivers' expense.

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

Allocated funds generated via our wellness clinic, private donations, "spay it forward" contributions, and fundraising events through the year help fund our sterilization program. Because of COVID restrictions, a decline in contributions, and the inability to hold our normal fundraiser events, the program numbers have been significantly reduced. We have budgeted to perform 1500 free cat sterilizations and funding would allow us to nearly double our efforts for cats and provide support to the shelters with dog sterilizations.

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

100

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All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with the final report submitted no later than September 1 of the following year.

Projected start date: 06/01/21/ **Projected end date:** 12/31/21

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.**

As noted, our cat sterilization program is supported by revenues generated through our wellness clinic and through fundraising efforts. We expect to return to more normal fundraising efforts within the next 12 months and to be able to redirect budgeted funds to increase the program again at that time.

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.**

Promotion of Florida Animal Friend and the Spay/Neuter License plate can be found on our website, social media pages, on rack cards, door hangers, refrigerator magnets available in our facility, in local shelters, and at county fairs and festivals. It is also promoted on our weekly TV segment on the morning news "Meet the Vet".

Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:

6