

Grant ID: 2003

Title of Proposal: Operation Have A Heart**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$15,000.00**Check Payable To:** Feline Friends of SWFL

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Feline Friends of SWFL**Website Address:** felinefriendsswfl.org**Person Submitting Proposal:** Caroline Resnick**Position:** Vice President**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** caroline@felinefriendsswfl.org**Agency Head:** Cathy Worster**Agency Head Email:** cathy@felinefriendsswfl.org**Organization Business Address:** P.O. Box 17998**City:** Sarasota**State:** Florida**Zip:** 34276**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 973-216-8018**Fax:****Cell:** 973-216-8018

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 11/28/2018**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/20 **End:** 12/31/20**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$41,096.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$52,876.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 0 Part Time: 0**Number of Active Volunteers:** 32**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 217.00**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Animal Welfare Community as well as personally having FAF license plates on registered vehicles.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2003	2021	Operation Have A Heart	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:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Caroline Resnick	Vice President	941-330-7346	Retired
Cathy Worster	President	973-216-8018	Retired
Larry Worster	Secretary	201-294-8701	Retired
Michelle Pariseau	Treasurer	941-350-9903	Retired
Nancy Colby	Director	941-735-4075	Retired

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

119 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

519 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stray/Lost pet intake | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness services to understand pet owners | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owner surrendered animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruelty investigation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High volume spay/neuter clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost and Found Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of ordinances | <input type="checkbox"/> Full service wellness clinic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster services | | |

If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption?

Yes

If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?

n/a

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

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.

There are many component parts involved in order to have a successful TNR program. We have developed and put programs into place which maximizes our efforts and offers a safety net for vulnerable cats and kittens by way of foster care and eventual adoption through local shelter partners. There are times when intervention is needed to get a cat off the street and into adoption. We have been able to successfully address those occasional issues. Also, no kittens are left behind in a colony that are young enough to be adopted into homes. It is our practice to intake the nursing female in addition to her kittens regardless of her temperament (feral or friendly). We allow feral females to nurse their kittens while we keep the kittens socialized to humans until they are of appropriate age to go into an adoption program. A nursing female in our possession who has weaned her kittens in our adoption program will be spayed and returned to her colony and caregiver. Another facet of care that we have implemented is treating sick or injured outdoor cats that need medical care in addition to spay or neuter. These cats are otherwise healthy, and a medical intervention is all they need to go back to being a healthy cat. For routine spay/neuter surgeries, cats are returned to field the following day after surgery to the same location in which they were trapped. Post TNR education is key for long-term success. We encourage caregivers to stay in contact with us, offering suggestions and making recommendations on how to keep their cat colony healthy. We let them know we are available to help medically if cats need assistance later on. Cathy Worster, Caroline Resnick, and Nancy Colby are the founders of Feline Friends of SWFL. Cathy Worster has been involved in TNR for 9 years and cared for a colony of cats in New Jersey. Cathy is currently responsible for the daily management and interactions with volunteer trappers, coordinating surgery dates with spay/neuter clinics and veterinary offices. Caroline Resnick has been practicing TNR for over 20 years. Prior to forming Feline Friends, she served on the board of the Animal Rescue Coalition and was the volunteer coordinator of their feral cat program which provided free TNR services to over 1,500 cats annually. Caroline also served on Cat Depot's Advisory Board. Her area of specialty is coordination and logistics of mass trapping efforts. She is also in charge of grant writing and fundraising efforts. Nancy Colby has been involved in animal welfare for over 20 years and strongly supports TNR efforts. She is active with Southeastern Guide Dogs, fostering puppies that ultimately become guide dogs. Nancy started a program at Feline Friends called 'I'm Special,' educating the public on the many rewards of adopting and caring for special needs cats. Nancy served on the advisory board of EARS Animal Sanctuary, and Cat Depot. Our trappers are seasoned and experienced professionals who volunteer their time and have been trained through our program on how to safely trap cats. Each trapper has approximately 10 or more years of TNR experience. Cathy Worster president, and Caroline Resnick vice-president will be the responsible party who will carry out the grant's terms and conditions. Cathy and Caroline will also be responsible for providing all necessary paperwork at the completion of the grant cycle.

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?

Feline Friends of Southwest Florida is currently utilizing funds from its fundraising activities through Giving Tuesday, and the Community Foundation Giving Challenge. We also rely on funding through a collaborative effort with Animal Network for grant funding availability for Manatee

County feral and free-roaming cats. Feline Friends has also created a year-end fund raising drive and is in continual development to grow its donor base. In addition, we rely on charitable donations from the community throughout the year for continued funding of our TNR program. We currently have resources to expand our spay/neuter efforts and have the available manpower and veterinary support but lack the additional funding necessary to increase our spay/neuter numbers.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Arcadia, Florida Zip Codes: 34265, 34266, 34269
Total human population in target area:	8,314
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	34.8
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	2520
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	2079
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	1386
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	583
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)	161
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: Free-roaming (feral/stray/community) cats are the greatest source of cat overpopulation in the target area. There are also populations of free-roaming personal pets who have not been spayed/neutered and are contributing to the cat overpopulation.	
What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area and in what ways are these resources currently insufficient to meet community needs? Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) is a Sarasota-based nonprofit that provides spay/neuter services for owned cats and dogs in Arcadia. Their transport program picks up and brings Arcadia pets to their Sarasota surgery center and returns them to Arcadia later in the day at a designated depot for pickup. This service is available to Arcadia owned pets once a month. Feline Friends knows of no other known affordable spay/neuter services available for Arcadia residents. Feline Friends of Southwest Florida is the only known TNR group that provides boots on the ground spay/neuter services for feral, and free-roaming cats in Arcadia. There is a need to provide consistent spay/neuter services for feral and free-roaming cats in Arcadia and the request for this type of service is high. We believe that with this grant funding, we will be able to have a further reach into the rural areas of DeSoto county where there is a lack of services.	
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 type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

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

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

The boundary of the targeted area is Arcadia, Florida, which is approximately 649 square miles.

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

Any free-roaming outdoor cat populations found/reported in Arcadia are eligible for this program.

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

Arcadia is a rural area, mostly agricultural.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 1385

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 300

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 333

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

Feline Friends encourages caregivers to stay in contact with us. We provide lifelong care to cats that have already been through our feral cat spay/neuter program by way of medical care for sick or injured cats, and cat food for financially challenged caregivers by way of fund raising food drives.

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

No

Please explain what is allowed:

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

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

TNR efforts are supported by Arcadia residents. Manatee County Animal Services and Sarasota County Animal Services also support TNR efforts.

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

When cats are TNR'd and are part of a well-maintained colony, they are fed on a regular basis and their impact on local wildlife is lessened or nonexistent.

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

We make every effort to educate caregivers and make sure all cats are spayed and neutered to prevent potential nuisance issues and make these cats better neighbors. We do on occasion have to address concerns of complainants and we work with both caregiver and complainant to come to a reasonable resolution.

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 goal is to immediately stop continual breeding cycles and to reduce the suffering of kittens being born outdoors. We also build goodwill and collaboration within the community through the humane practice of spay and neuter and education.

Objectives

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

In addition to immediately stopping the continual breeding cycles of outdoor cats and reducing the senseless suffering of kittens being born outdoors, adoptable kittens will be removed immediately from the colony location, automatically decreasing the number of cats in a colony. The decrease in numbers is measurable immediately upon removal of kittens. Once remaining cats are spayed and neutered, there is also an immediate and permanent halt to breeding which stops numbers from increasing. Those numbers can be measured immediately post surgery. Attrition will occur over time and numbers will decrease, and eventually the colony ceases to exist. Those numbers can be measured yearly.

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

The goal is to provide an additional 333 spay/neuter surgeries to reach more cats that would otherwise not be sterilized.

Methods

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

Any feral or free-roaming outdoor cat populations in the Arcadia zip codes of 34265, 34266, 34269 are eligible for this program.

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

Feline Friends of Southwest Florida will utilize several media venues to advertise the availability of our services and FAF grant funding. We will advertise on our website and post on social media. We will contact animal services and asked for referrals of cat overpopulation in the target areas. We will also advertise in local publications, including the Charlotte Sun which has an Arcadia edition. We will post flyers/posters in the area.

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

We have two trappers of Hispanic descent who speak fluent Spanish and handles any language barriers we encounter. We also have Spanish fliers that explain the TNR process.

Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe the vehicles, methods for confinement, personnel training, liability releases used to assure the safety of the animals and handlers.

We take safe transport very seriously, especially since we live in a tropical climate with heat indexes in excess of 100 degrees during the summer months. Vehicles used by our volunteers are SUVs with indoor climate-control. Pickup trucks are allowed ONLY if cats are transported inside the climate-controlled cabin. We do NOT under any circumstances allow cats to ride in the back of an open pickup truck. The Animal Rescue Coalition has generously allowed us the use of their transport van for the FAF grant. The vehicle is a state-of-the-art van with a climate-controlled cabin so the animals will not overheat during transport. A liability release must be signed before TNR services are engaged. All cats are transported in Tomahawk humane traps, and our volunteers are trained in safe trapping and handling practices. Thin sheets made into trap coverings are mandatory to keep cats safe from unnecessary injury during the entire TNR process. We hold cats overnight in a temperature controlled room free from mosquitoes to allow for full recovery. Our trappers are educated in return to field protocols for post-surgical ferals and how to safely release a feral back home. Additional educational pieces are given to caregivers on how to take care of the cats post-op and what type of signs and symptoms to look for in case a cat is not recovering well before release. They are instructed to contact us and not release the cat until a medical clearance is given. This information is given verbally and in writing. We instruct caregivers to contact us immediately for any adverse effects.

Veterinary Services

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

The majority of our surgeries will be performed by the Animal Rescue Coalition who will be our lead for spay/neuter services followed by Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic, Bay Road Animal Hospital, and Gulf Gate Animal Hospital. All have agreed to the fee schedule of \$55 female, and \$45 male.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Animal Rescue Coalition	6320 Tower Lane	Sarasota	Florida	34240	941-957-1955	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bay Road Animal Hospital	1712 Bay Road	Sarasota	Florida	34239	941-366-2275	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gulf Gate Animal Hospital	2031 Bispham Road	Sarasota	Florida	34231	941-922-3917	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic	8467 S. Tamiami Trail	Sarasota	Florida	34238	941-925-7000	<input 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="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<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?
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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$2.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<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="\$3.00"/>
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 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="\$5.00"/>
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

Feline Leuk/FIV

Required Optional Not Available No Yes
County License Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Ear tipping Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Microchip Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Other Required Optional Not Available No Yes

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for any of the above services, except for pain medication which is required and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

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

The cost to spay or neuter a feral cat is \$45 per male and \$55 per female sterilization. Built into this cost includes staffing, disposable surgical supplies, pain medications, anesthesia, and dissolvable gut sutures. In addition to these services, the cats also receive Rabies and FVRCP vaccinations and ancillary medication to speed up the healing process which includes Revolution and praziquantal by injection to knock down the parasite burden. The costs for Rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines and additional ancillary products have been removed from the proposal and are not part of FAF grant. The cost of \$15.00 per cat will be paid for out of Feline Friends' general funds to cover these additional items.

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
Cat Depot	To adopt kittens that were taken into foster from Feline Friends TNR projects.
EARS Animal Rescue Sanctuary	To adopt kittens that were taken into foster from Feline Friends TNR projects.
Honor Animal Rescue	To adopt kittens that were taken into foster from Feline Friends TNR projects.
Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch	To adopt kittens that were taken into foster from Feline Friends TNR projects.

Other Information

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

We will track each cat that is spayed/neutered and maintain the data on a spreadsheet to ensure that we meet our goals and timeline.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 333 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$46.00

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

There is no cost to performing basic examinations and ear tipping performed by veterinarians. Rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines, and parasite control are given to every cat. The total cost of \$15.00 per cat is not part of the grant and will be paid for out of

Feline Friends' general funds. Optional microchipping and FeLV/FIV tests will be paid for by caregiver. In the event an FeLV/FIV test is recommended by a veterinarian, Feline Friends will absorb the cost and will be paid for by Feline Friends' general funds.

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

We currently have a \$20,000 collaborative grant pending with the Community Foundation of Sarasota. This collaboration is with the Venice Cat Coalition who was the lead on this project. Funding for this grant will be specific to kittens we get from TNR colony projects and the funding will provide the medical care needed to get them ready for adoption. Fundraising has been very challenging due to COVID-19. However, we have been successful with the following fundraising efforts and will continue these efforts in the future: • Community Foundation Giving Challenge • Giving Tuesday • Year-end Holiday Fundraising Drive • Go Fund Me campaigns for select cats or kittens needing specialized surgery • Motorworks Brewing Beer Garden fundraiser • Kitten Supply Amazon Wish List Fundraising Drives • Community Cat Food Fundraising Drives

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

77%

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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: 08/15/21/ **Projected end date:** 08/14/22

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.**

Future funding of our TNR program will be accomplished with continued individual donations and fundraising efforts. Because Covid has frozen most fundraising venues, we are looking to social media to raise funds with good results. We have a growing social media following and ask for their financial support, especially during fundraising campaigns. We have also cultivated a year-end mailing fundraising drive which lists our accomplishments for the year. We anticipate growth with this fundraiser as our donor base continues to grow yearly. We currently have two generous benefactors who will match public donations dollar for dollar during these fundraising campaigns, generating excitement in donors and tripling the impact of our fundraising efforts. We manage a small but productive coin bank program which are placed at strategic high yield locations. We also have a monthly giving program to help feral cats and are currently working to expand the program.

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.**

Once we have been approved for the grant, we will write a press release informing the public of our project, letting them know it has been made possible through the Florida Animal Friend license plate funding. We will feature the Florida Animal Friend logo on our website and post on social media. We post spay/neuter projects regularly on our facebook and other social media outlets keeping the public informed on what we are doing. We will inform the public of our success with FAF projects in particular and will encourage the public to purchase Florida Animal Friend license plates so projects like ours can continue to be funded.

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

7