

Grant ID: 1977

Title of Proposal: Fixing Flagler's Furrries**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Flagler Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Flagler Humane Society**Website Address:** 1 Shelter Dr.**Person Submitting Proposal:** AMY W CAROTENUTO**Position:** Executive Director**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** ACAROTENUTO@FLAGLERHUMANESOCIETY.ORG**Agency Head:** AMY W CAROTENUTO**Agency Head Email:** ACAROTENUTO@FLAGLERHUMANESOCIETY.ORG**Organization Business Address:** 1 Shelter Dr.**City:** Palm Coast**State:** FL**Zip:** 32137**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 386-445-1814**Fax:** 386-445-5843**Cell:** 386-566-3734

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 10/01/1980**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/19 **End:** 09/30/20**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,664,546.22**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,515,579.16**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 28 Part Time: 14**Number of Active Volunteers:** 165**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 500.00**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Thankfully, we have been awarded grant funding from Florida Animal Friend for several years. I believe I learned about the organization way back when the license plate program first came out. FAF grant awards have always been a Godsend.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 Year(s) denied/incomplete:**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
381	2013	Controlling Community Cats	Funded
1481	2015	Community Cat Diversion	Funded
1691	2017	The Big Fix	Funded
1826	2019	The Big Fix	Funded
1977	2021	Fixing Flagler's Furrries	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
Courtney Kilbourne-Hayes	Secretary	954-802-4519	Attorney
DeSalvo Karen	President	708-275-7624	retired
Isabel Conde	Treasurer	386-338-2163	Banker
Laura Gazzoli	Vice President	386-931-1881	Developer
Linda Robinson	Board Member	407-325-8898	CPA
Maria Lavin-Sanhudo	Board Member	386-569-9041	Banker
Tim Conner	Board Member	386-447-0134	Attorney

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

1475 cats and 908 dogs were admitted.

1064 cats and 522 dogs were adopted.

78 cats and 57 dogs were euthanized.

1255 cats and 587 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?

The only animals not spayed or neutered prior to adoption are those with severe health issues or geriatrics that the doctor sees as unsafe to have surgery. Usually around 1%.

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

Years ago, when we weren't able to sterilize all pets prior to adoption, we had a strict follow-up program in which we made phone calls and even visited. Now that almost every single animal is spayed or neutered prior to adoption, the only ones who aren't are often geriatrics who the doctor feels cannot reproduce anyway. There's a small number of animals who are adopted out with health issues that we partner with the new owner to monitor and get the animal healthy enough that we perform surgery as soon as safe for the pet.

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.

FHS is a full service, open admission shelter also contracted as the area's animal control facility since opening our doors in 1982. We have multiple programs aimed at keeping pets in their homes and assisting pet owners to be the best they can be. We host a wellness clinic, a pet food bank, dog training, TNR program, summer camp for kids, etc. FHS was lucky enough to find and hire Dr. Carlos Aguiar who is a skilled veterinarian well versed in high volume spay/neuter. His surgery record since his arrival at FHS has been flawless. We are proud to call him our Medical Director. We have also added to our staff of veterinary assistants.

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?

Currently we have to charge those who are coming in to have their pets sterilized. We have had grants in the past from FAF and PetsMart to help with Spay/Neuter but that funding has been exhausted. We saw a huge increase in surgeries scheduled when we were able to offer free spay/neuter.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):

Flagler County

Total human population in target area:	116,000
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9.7%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	35152
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	29000
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	19334
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	12
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	12
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	12
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	12
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. At FHS, we believe the actual demographics are about the same as estimates from the census bureau.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Statistically, unaltered pets belonging to owners with financial hardships account for at least 85% of the unwanted pet population. We see many of these pet owners as they use our low-cost wellness clinic and pet food pantry. If we were awarded the FAF grant we could offer fee waived sterilization surgery to lower income pet owners. Compliance would skyrocket and unwanted litters would drop immensely. Fee waived surgeries will provide a vital piece of the effort to reduce the number of surrendered and potentially euthanized pets	
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? FHS has our low cost program which originated in 1992. On top of that, a \$25 county spay/neuter rebate is available to any member of Flagler County no matter which veterinary hospital they go to. They send in their receipt and we send them their rebate check. FHS Low Cost Spay/Neuter program is staffed by our doctor and techs inside the shelter. Fees for surgeries range from \$83 to \$123. for male dogs depending on weight and from \$93. to \$138 for female dogs depending on weight. We do surgeries three days per week, so we are able to keep up with the demand, we just cannot always help those who are unable to pay. Aside from us there is a very small group that has a low cost surgery program for cats. They have some internal issues and they are simply limited to a quite small number of cats.	
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 type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input 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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 0

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 0

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 0

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

N/A

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

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

N/A

(NOTE: FAF will not fund any program this is inconsistent with local ordinances.)**For TNR program, list any groups or government agencies who support this TNR effort:**

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Will the cats be ear-tipped? No**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.**

N/A

Objectives

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

We continue to be concerned that we might be failing to help the most vulnerable animals - Animals who live in areas of severe economic hardships. As we analyze numbers within our shelter, we are tremendously successful. However, it is more difficult to gauge the population of animals within our county that we don't see. We are troubled, knowing that hidden in our county, there are most likely female dogs and cats giving birth whose offspring neither find good homes, nor end up in our shelter. We know there are male dogs who lose their homes because of negative behaviors which would be solved by sterilization. Targeting our lower income areas with spay/neuter opportunities that are truly within their budget will not only save lives, but it will improve quality of life for pets and their owners. Since the FAF funds were exhausted last year, a significant number of pet owners were still unable to schedule sterilization for their pets due to economic ability. In many of these cases, we subsidized their surgeries even beyond our low cost deal, however, our budget constraints are such that we are unable to help the number of pet owners who ask for our help without grant funding from an outside source such as Florida Animal Friend. If we follow the formula within this grant application, In Flagler County we have well over 3,400 cats and 2,800 dogs living with pet owners who have fallen into poverty. We must do everything in our power to help them take the best care of their four legged family member as possible.

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

Dr. Carlos Aguiar is a skilled surgeon who performs surgeries quickly, but most importantly safely. He and his relief doctor, Kimberly Neissen who works one day per week, both came from First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville. If we are ever unable to keep up with the demand in a timely manner, we have veterinary friends within the community that would help us temporarily. Our roadblock right now is cost. Every week our customer service staff have callers who ask if we have grant funding available because although our spay/neuter prices are the lowest in the county, they are still more than what some families can afford.

Methods

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

We will ask that applicants show a photo ID and proof that their household income is at or below 150% of the current poverty level as shown on a W2 or proof of eligibility of public assistance such as medicaid, SSI or food stamps. Should the client be unable to produce these documents, a brief interview will be conducted in private. Unless our trained staff feels that the pet owner is blatantly taking advantage of services that they can fully fund themselves, they will not be denied. They will simply be asked to sign an affidavit expressing their need. Eligibility requirements will be included in applications, flyers, our website, and all published materials. Too often people who work hard and are in need of assistance fall through the cracks and we don't want to turn anyone in true need away.

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

Much of the advertising for an opportunity like this is done "Boots on the ground" by our officers observing a need and speaking directly to pet owners in the community. We will put out a press release and hopefully our friends in local media will publicize it. We will notify city and county leaders with which we contract. They may mention it in their state of the city addresses or they might include a blib in their water bills. We will post flyers in social services buildings such as the DMV and Health Department. There are family parks in our lower income areas at which our animal services officer can post flyers. We have an Instagram Account and three Facebook accounts (Shelter, Animal Services and ThriftStore.) Spay/neuter opportunities will periodically be posted on Facebook and Instagram. The fee waived spay/neuter thanks to the grant will be featured all year on our popular website which often receives as many as 500 visitors per day. Flyers will be added to bags at our thrift store. A local lunch delivery company has worked with us previously so we will ask if they would include the FAF grant flyer in their delivery bags. We will discuss FAF grants as we host a radio show called "Speaking of Animals" which airs on Saturday mornings and on demand on line at WNZF. If anyone from FAF would be willing to tape a radio interview by phone, we would love to have you as a guest.

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

We have some staff and volunteers from various cultural backgrounds and who speak languages besides English - even sign language. So, if there is a concern with communication, then we can match the pet owner to an FHS representative who can help them. Our forms are brief, and staffers often read them to pet owners who have literacy issues. Our officers often transport animals belonging to pet owners who do not have available transportation. If officers are busy, we have volunteers who run errands involving animals. There would not be an issue with helping get animals to and from their surgery appointments.

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.

For the most part, transportation would be provided by the pet owner. If a pet owner is in need of assistance though, FHS has a total of four vehicles. We just purchased a new (new to us) Chevy Silverado truck and had it outfitted with two dog kennels. This truck is safe to transport large and small dogs, even unruly dogs. We have a Dodge ProMaster Van which can transport multiple dogs inside as we stack wire crates inside in air conditioned comfort. We also have two other vehicles that are used simply for shelter errands. Either of those are fine to transport dogs and cats, if the primary vehicles are in use. If someone other than our trained officers or staff is providing transport, we would send a preapproved volunteer that is well versed in animal handling. Liability waivers that have been approved by our board attorney are used. We would simply be transporting the animals, not the dog owners.

Veterinary Services

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

Our facility has a large surgical suite with areas for prep and recovery. Our Medical Director, Dr. Carlos Aguiar is a skilled surgeon with experience in high volume quality spay/neuter. Dr. Kimberly Niessen also works part time with us. She is also well versed in high volume quality spay/neuter. Both doctors have worked at First Coast No More Homeless Pets. Outside veterinary hospitals may be used if our doctors are unable to keep up with increased demands. We have long term friendships with several doctors in our area and surrounding areas who are happy to help when we ask. These hospitals have partnered with us for years and will provide sterilization surgeries if demand exceeds our ability to provide needed services in a timely manner.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Flagler Animal Hospital	130 Old Kings Rd.	Flagler Beach	Florida	32136	386-439-1606	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freiberg's Healing Paws	1437 N. Hwy US 1	Ormond Beach	FL	32174	386-615-7297	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tomoka Pines Veterinary Hospital	750 S. Nova Rd.	Ormond Beach	Florida	32174	386-672-3137	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Emergency Center of East Volusia	3506 S. Nova Rd.	Port Orange	Florida	32129	386-761-1911	<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="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$48.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$48.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$72.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$72.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$92.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$92.00"/>

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 Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Rabies Vaccination if Due Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Other Vaccination if Due Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Pain Medication Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Parasite Medication Required Optional Not Available No Yes
HW Testing Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV Required Optional Not Available No Yes
County License Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Ear tipping Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Microchip Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Other Required Optional Not Available No Yes

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

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

To ensure compliance with state statutes, we require a rabies vaccine

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
Community Cats of Palm Coast	Although they are primarily a community cat TNR group of cat caretakers, Palm Coast Community Cats is also great at networking and helping pet owners find the help they need. They are a perfect asset for anything relating to spay/neuter. They help owners financially. They help with transport and they help us advertise spay/neuter opportunities.
Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare	We have been friends and partners with Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare since their inception over 20 years ago. They have always helped spread the word for any spay/neuter opportunities that we have had.
Flagler County Sheriff's Office	We have a very close relationship with our sheriff's department. Deputies are trained to watch for animals in need and contact us when they see issues. Deputies can help us spread the word of grant funding to households in need.
Palm Coast Animal Control	They bring their lost, stray and animals in need to be housed at FHS. The officers reach out to us when they have situations in which an owner needs help. They will be thrilled to be able to spread the word about grant funding for spay/neuter

Name	Level of Involvement
Paws of War	Lauren Driscoll, owner of Pet Peeves Dog Training and founder of Paws of War (which trains and provides dogs to military veterans) is a volunteer and part time employee for FHS. She works constantly helping animals to remain in homes. She counsels owners with unsterilized pets that spaying and neutering often curbs negative behavior issues. She will happily share news of grant funding that will help owners who have problems affording spay/neuter.
Sophie's Circle	Sophie's Circle is an adoption partner that acts as a rescue group and pet food pantry. We have always been friends and have worked closely together for years and years. Sophies Circle volunteers spread the word of any and all spay/neuter opportunities in this and surrounding areas. They have even helped with transportation of pets if there is a need.

Other Information

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

Although we don't like to use the word "Kill" at all, statistically we can be considered "No Kill". Not only are we an open admission shelter that also serves as the animal control facility, we also help less fortunate shelters around us. We are hoping that Florida Animal Friend will help us serve even more animals than we do now. Until then though, I found a cool program while researching for this grant. Citrus County has a program called "Spay it Forward" which encourages adopters to give donations at the time of animal adoption toward a spay/neuter fund. We are swiping the idea and looking to start that at FHS immediately.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 198 **Dogs:** 198

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$64.00

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

The grant will cover spay and neuter and pain medication for the animals. Vaccines costs will be the responsibility of the owner and will be offered at low cost. If we note that an animal is in need of a deflea, detick or deworm treatment we will provide that and if the owner is unable to cover those costs, we will absorb those costs.

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

Grant funds will be used specifically for the costs of spay/neuter surgery for dogs and cats belonging to financially challenged pet owners. The cost of outreach, including printing and staff time will be absorbed by FHS as fighting pet overpopulation is our mission. Often when donors see that we are helping less fortunate members of our community, they are more likely to donate, so there should be donations to our angel fund which would help cover if a grant recipient pet needed anything additional like a mass removal or wound treatment at time of surgery.

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: 09/01/21/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/22

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.**

FHS has a strong commitment to the sustainability of our low cost and free spay neuter programs. Since our organization has been around for

forty years and our low cost spay/neuter program nearly thirty years, we have an established fund solicitation program, we are respected within the community. Thanks in part to previous grants from Florida Animal Friend, our intake of animals to the shelter drops nearly every year. With fewer animals residing in the shelter, that puts less of a strain on a tight budget. If we can assist the owners who are in financial distress, then our intake numbers should continue to drop. Less intake of animals means that funds that would normally be spent on care staff, food and supplies could then be used on programs to help animals outside of the shelter. One of those programs is always spay/neuter. Our Medical Director diligently controls costs and looks at ways that our medical team can provide more for our patients. We watch for grant opportunities that might help our ability to offer free sterilization for dogs. We have a small grant from a local attorney right now to sterilize dogs in her neighborhood. We partner with local pet stores, some of which have national grant programs. We are a part of the Million Cat Challenge, we send our stats in to Shelter Animals Count, we are partners with Best Fiends, ASPCA and HSUS. I am on the board of directors at Florida Animal Control Association and Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations. FHS Facebook has one of the largest lists of followers in Flagler County. When we put out a plea on Facebook, the response is amazing. Our other social media outlets are expanding. We publish both hard copy newsletters and eblasts to help in our fundraising efforts. Our monthly sustained giving program is called Humane Hero.

Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

***Applicants selected for funding are expected to publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program and promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate via press releases, newsletters, website links, social media, etc. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate. Grantees are required to submit documentation of promotional endeavors with their final report.**

We have a huge social media following. Our website receives nearly 500 visits each day. Our webmaster is vigilant in making sure that grantors and donors receive the publicity that they deserve. We also have one of the largest Facebook followings in Flagler County and our Instagram & Tictoc following is growing in leaps and bounds. Florida Animal Friend flyers can be handed out at our shelter counter as well as our thrift store counter. Flyers can be placed at our local health department, sheriff's department and social services offices. We have a great friendship with Flagler County's tag offices. They have placed donation jars in their lobbies for us over the last few years. They will allow us to decorate their lobby. FHS hosts a radio show called "Speaking of Animals" every Saturday morning. If anyone from Florida Animal Friend would like to do a taped radio interview, we would love to have you! We have a great relationship with local newspapers, who often publicize a story upon our request.

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

6