

Grant ID: 1996

Title of Proposal: Prevent a Litter; Fix your Critter with Hardee County Dog/Cat Population Management Program

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: \$24,970.00

Check Payable To: Hardee County

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Hardee County

Website Address: 412 West Orange Street

Person Submitting Proposal: Esther Bragg

Position: Grants Coordinator

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: esther.bragg@hardeecounty.net

Agency Head: Russell Melendy

Agency Head Email: bcc@hardeecounty.net

Organization Business Address: 412 West Orange Street, Room 201

City: Wauchula

State: FL - Florida

Zip: 33873

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 863-773-6349

Fax: 863-773-5801

Cell: 863-773-7204

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/01/1980

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/19 **End:** 09/30/20

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$42,915,359.68

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$40,232,177.44

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 188 Part Time: 2

Number of Active Volunteers: 11

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 20.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Email notice of opportunity; past recipient of grant funds.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2016,2008,2006 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2010

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
164	2010	High Impact/Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program	Denied
1538	2006		Funded
1539	2008		Funded
1649	2016	Spay/Neuter to Decrease Shelter Intakes	Funded
1996	2021	Prevent a Litter; Fix your Critter with Hardee County Dog/Cat Population Management Program	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
Judith George	Commissioner	863-773-9430	Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
Noey Flores	Vice Chairman	863-773-9430	Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
Renee Wyatt	Commissioner	863-773-9430	Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
Russell Melendy	Chairman	863-773-9430	Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
Sandy Meeks	Commissioner	863-773-9430	Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

402 cats and 390 dogs were admitted.

50 cats and 185 dogs were adopted.

15 cats and 19 dogs were euthanized.

50 cats and 185 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?

No

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

1%

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

Sterilization depends on animal age.

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

Hardee County Animal Control provides adoptive customer with a voucher to a local veterinarian offering low cost spay/neuter for each animal at the time of adoption and an appointment for sterilization is scheduled.

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.

Hardee County Animal Control Department is made up of an Animal Control Manager (and Officer), Kennel Attendant-Animal Control Officer, and Executive Assistant. They are responsible for the enforcement of Hardee County ordinance pertaining to domestic animals, including performing field enforcement activities and to oversee and provide housing and care of animals in Hardee County kennels. Hardee County Animal Control strives to make a difference in pet overpopulation and works closely with a local veterinarian that offers low cost spay/neuter to fulfill the mission of adopted animal sterilization. Prevent a Litter; Fix your Critter with Hardee County Dog/Cat Population Management Program would provide a flat rate voucher to any Hardee County pet owner seeking assistance with spay/neuter cost. This program would work similar to our existing adoption sterilization while increasing the number of animals being spayed/neutered by utilizing and promoting both of our local veterinarian practices. The Animal Control Manager has obtained certification in the Animal Control Officer Training Program, Chemical Immobilization of Animals, and Euthanasia of Animals. Additional staff will be obtaining certification in the near future. If awarded the Florida Animal Friend Grant, Hardee County Community Development would serve as fiscal agent. Community Development is the grant hub and administers grants totaling millions of dollars. The Grant Coordinator will ensure procedures are completed timely and records are maintained to document success.

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?

Animals selected for adoption receive a voucher and are scheduled for spay/neuter with a local veterinarian offering low cost sterilization. Limited funds are budgeted by Hardee County Animal Control Department for this expense on a fiscal year basis. There is insufficient funds to offer extending sterilization for animals being transferred to non-profit agencies or for financial assistance to existing pet owners. The poverty rate for Hardee County is 24.1% and Hardee County has been designated a rural area of opportunity based on being adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters. The median household income for Hardee County is \$38,682. Based on income limitations for many of our citizens, the current low-cost spay/neuter program offered by one local veterinarian is still beyond reach. As a rural community our options of veterinary practices are limited to only two locally for the entire county. The inability to pay low cost spay/neuter or for customers who opt to use

the other local veterinarian for reduced rate sterilization services, but can not afford to pay, contributes to many unwanted litters of animals in Hardee County. Having the ability to offer financial assistance for sterilization costs to Hardee County residents would significantly aid our low income population to spay/neuter their pet(s), better manage pet populations by providing increased sterilization, and reduce the number of unwanted animals and euthanasia in Hardee County.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	All Hardee County including three municipalities.
Total human population in target area:	27,131
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	24.1
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	8222
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	6783
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	4522
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	402
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	390
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	15
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	19
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. Hardee County has many large breed dogs and owned cats.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Hardee County is a rural county with three small municipalities and designated as a rural area of opportunity. A significant factor driving dog/cat overpopulation in Hardee County is simply the lack of education about the responsibility of pet owners. Further, the median household income for Hardee County is \$38,682. Many of the residents are low income which creates challenges with expense associated with pet population management. Much of Hardee County resident population are avid hunters and as such pet owners of pit bull or large breed dogs used to track wildlife. Numerous complaints have been received by Hardee Animal Control regarding Husky dogs. Approximately twenty Huskies have been brought into Animal Control over the past year. Most of these complaints stem from Husky attack and/or killing pet chickens and other neighborhood livestock. Huskies are not native to Florida. Their breed has thick hair not ideal for Florida temperature. Additionally, Hardee County cat pet owners typically have multiple cats.	
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? Hardee County has only two veterinarian practices. One offers low cost sterilization; some residents opt for the other veterinarian practice, but can not afford to pay. Barriers are created with much of Hardee County population being low income and pet sterilization not being at the top of their priority list. Added cost of vaccinations drive up the sterilization expense. Hardee County Animal Control Department covers the low cost sterilization for animals selected for adoption. However, funds are insufficient to extend spay/neuter services for dogs/cats admitted at Hardee County Animal Control or to offer financial assistance to Hardee County low income pet owners. Last year 318 cats and 110 were transferred to non-profit agencies. The ability to increase sterilizations, assist low income pet owners, and support both local veterinarian practices will aid Hardee County economy. We propose to provide a flat rate voucher to assist with sterilization expense which would enable low income pet owners to afford fees associated with vaccination(s).	
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 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.

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:

Cats are not allowed to free roam.

(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 hope to offer an increased countywide low cost sterilization voucher program for dogs/cats to Hardee County residents. Our goal is to educate individuals to become responsible pet owners and provide resources to accomplish our objective of reducing pet populations. With grant funds and increased sterilization, we hope to reduce the intake of stray and/or unwanted dogs/cats in Hardee County Animal Control.

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

This program will increase baseline sterilizations by providing for 454 surgeries, to include pain management and a portion of the rabies vaccination. If grant funds are received, an additional local veterinarian will join in the force to provide spay/neuter services. With two veterinarian practices on board, Prevent a Litter; Fix your Critter with Hardee County Dog/Cat Population Management Program made possible by Florida Animal Friend is certain to be a success.

Methods

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

Customers must own a dog/cat and reside in Hardee County. Florida Driver's License or Photograph Identification will be required to document Hardee County residency. Pet owner must submit an application for each dog/cat, four month of age and older, they wish to have sterilized, provide a photograph of the animal, and proof of rabies vaccination. If animal has not received a rabies vaccination, the pet owner will be responsible to pay for any cost over the \$2 rabies portion covered by voucher.

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

Advertisement will be in the local newspaper, Hardee County Animal Control website, and social media. Flyers will be posted at the Hardee County Public Library and other government offices. Community Development staff will add a banner promoting Florida Animal Friend and license plate sales as well as Prevent a Litter; Fix your Critter with Hardee County Dog/Cat Population Management Program as part of their email signature block. Word of mouth by Animal Control mentioning to individuals during enforcement visits. Additionally, we have a non-profit partner, Hardee Animal Rescue Team (HART) active in the community that will assist to educate pet owners about their responsibility to manage pet populations by having animals spayed/neutered.

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

Flyers will be posted in both English and Spanish. Hardee County has a large number of Spanish speaking only residents; Animal Control staff are familiar and already have practices in place for the use of interpretation. We have a non-profit partner, Hardee Animal Rescue Team (HART) active in the community that will assist with educating pet owners about their responsibility to management pet populations by having animals spayed/neutered. Transportation will not be furnished. Pet owner will be responsible to take the animal for the scheduled sterilization appointment.

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.

No; N/A

Veterinary Services

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

The Hardee County Animal Control Manager has personally spoken with each Veterinarian, explained the grant proposal and obtained a support letter for both.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
All Creatures Animal Hospital	330 Hanchey Road	Wauchula	FL - Florida	33873	863-773-9215	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hardee Animal Clinic PMA	1927 Highway 17 North	Wauchula	FL - Florida	33873	863-773-2424	<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="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>

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="\$16.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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="\$15.00"/>
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="\$34.50"/>
Feline Leuk/FIV	<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="\$34.50"/>
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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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:

Grant will cover sterilization surgery \$38, pain medication/management \$15, and rabies vaccination \$2. Pet owner will be responsible to pay for any additionally requested veterinarian service. Fees listed are based on the maximum charges, but may be less dependent on the animal, the veterinarian, and the customer choice.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

Eligible Hardee County pet owners will receive a flat rate voucher in the amount of \$55 towards sterilization cost for each animal. Veterinary practice will be responsible to invoice Hardee County. Cleared check will document payment.

For your voucher program, how have you determined the capacity of the veterinarians listed above to handle the projected capacity?

Both Veterinary practices will increase normal workloads. Hardee Animal Clinic is committed to go above and beyond their normal routine to reduce the number of unwanted animals. All Creatures Animal Hospital will join in the force to control the pet population by providing 1-2 surgeries daily.

Will you have the ability to report the number of vouchers issued and the percentage that result in S/N surgeries?

Hardee County vouchers will be tracked electronically. This decreases the number of lost/misplaced vouchers and increases the successful surgeries completed.

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
Hardee Animal Rescue Team (HART)	Non-profit partner active in the community by assisting to educate pet owners about their responsibility to management pet populations by having animals spayed/neutered.

Other Information

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

Hardee County will accept applications from Hardee County dog/cat owners requesting assistance with the cost to spay/neuter their animal(s). Applications will be screened. Eligible applicants will be issued a \$55 voucher for pet sterilization. Vouchers will be tracked electronically to decrease the number of vouchers lost/misplaced. Vet practices will submit invoice(s) for payment. Cleared checks will document payment(s). Grant funds will provide for 454 surgeries. Program success will be measured by the number of successful sterilization surgeries completed.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 200 **Dogs:** 254

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,970.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$55.00

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

Pet owner will be responsible to pay for any requested veterinarian service provided above sterilization (\$38), pain medication/management (\$15), and rabies vaccination (\$2).

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

allocation, etc.

Currently, Hardee County does not have any available funds for this type of assistance. We continue to search for grants and fund raising opportunities.

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: 08/15/21/ **Projected end date:** 08/12/22

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.**

Adoption fees and low cost sterilization performed by a private veterinary practice will help sustain a spay/neuter program along with continuously searching for grants and fundraising opportunities to further assist Hardee County.

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.**

Hardee County is completely supportive of spay/neuter programs and will promote the sale of the Animal Friend License Plate and support the Florida Animal Friend grant by advertisement in the local newspaper, Hardee County Animal Control Website, and social media. Further, flyers will be posted at the Hardee County Public Library and other government offices. Community Development staff will add a banner as part of their email signature block.

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

Unknown