

Grant ID: 1986

**Title of Proposal:** Pets of Polk 2021**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** SPCA Florida

## Application Information

## Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** SPCA Florida**Website Address:** <https://www.spcaflorida.org>**Person Submitting Proposal:** Maria Sadowski**Position:** Marketing and Grant Manager**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** msadowski@spcaflorida.org**Agency Head:** Shelley Thayer**Agency Head Email:** sthayer@spcaflorida.org**Organization Business Address:** 5850 Brannen Rd S**City:** Lakeland**State:** FL**Zip:** 33813**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 863-646-7722**Fax:****Cell:**

## Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/06/1980**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/20 **End:** 12/31/20**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$6,118,386.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$6,303,195.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 82 Part Time: 0**Number of Active Volunteers:** 757**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 388.50**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: 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2006, 2009, 2010

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
108	2009	Florida Animal Friend Grant Proposal	Denied
182	2010	Feral Cat Round Up	Denied (not completed)
354	2013	Community Cats	Funded
1466	2015	Spay/Neuter of Low-Income Residents	Funded
1594	2006		Denied
1695	2017	Low Income Spay/Netuer	Funded
1840	2019	Pets of Polk	Funded
1986	2021	Pets of Polk 2021	Funded

**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):****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
Dawn Diaz	Board Member	817-829-8665	Business Owner
Grace Viola	Board Member	863-646-7722	Retired
Julie Davis	Treasurer	813-373-0349	CPA
Karen Mitchell	Board president	813-966-2662	Retired
Katie Norvell Liddell	Board Member	863-646-7722	Retired
Katrina Barcellona	Board Member	863-646-7722	Attorney
Marion Smith	Vice President	813-763-2113	Retired
Stacy Walsh	Secretary	863-797-6387	Non-profit developer
Walter W. Carey	Board Member	863-646-7722	Retired

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**3126 cats and 1055 dogs were admitted.**

**2459 cats and 1017 dogs were adopted.**

**69 cats and 10 dogs were euthanized.**

**2929 cats and 1259 dogs were sterilized.**

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

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

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

Yes

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

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

N/A

**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.**

Six full-time veterinarians with over 100 years of experience are backed by 27 technicians at SPCA Florida's full-service Medical Center. Together, they care for around 20,000 patients every year. SPCA Florida has existed for more than 40 years and we have the staff, knowledge, and connection to the community to succeed.

**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?**

SPCA Florida's Medical Center provides low-cost services to the community six days a week and we always offer discounted spay/neuter services to low-income families. However, many aren't able to pay even the discounted fee. We have found these pets to be overrepresented in the number of unwanted pregnancies, and preventing unwanted births from this group will lower the number of homeless pets on the streets. We cooperate closely with Polk County Animal Control to improve their save rate and reach no-kill status for the county overall. The efforts are paying off; in 2018, their live release rate for both cats and dogs was 40.85% and in 2020 their live release rate had increased to 59.12%. However, when breaking out the numbers for cats alone, the statistics paint a sordid picture. In 2018, their live release rate for cats was 24.15%. It increased to 33.88% in 2019 and 44.72% in 2020, but that still means more than half of cats that come to Polk County Animal Control are euthanized. Furthermore, if a cat comes to Animal Control in a trap and doesn't have a microchip, it will be euthanized. Pet cats happily go into traps to get the food, not just ferals, and all cats sterilized in the proposed program will be microchipped if it isn't already done. We can decrease the flow of

incoming animals to them and improve the chances of survival for pets in Polk County, but cats procreate quickly and we need additional funds to continue to move in the right direction.

## Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Polk County, Florida
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	724777
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	14%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	219630
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	181195
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	120797
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	7224
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4553
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4126
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	946
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> The data above should be accurate.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> Free roaming cats are the greatest source of overpopulation. Many of them have owners but are not spayed or neutered and keep procreating. The 2020 pilot program mentioned under the section "applicant information" showed an enormous need of free spay/neuter services to low-income families.	
<b>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?</b> There are close to 40 for-profit veterinary clinics in Polk County, but their pricing is out of reach for the low-income households. TLC Pet Snip offers low cost spay/neuter services as do we, but these families are still unable to pay.	
<b>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:</b> <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.

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

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

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :

Estimated number that are currently sterilized:

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:

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

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

**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:**

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

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

**Will the cats be ear-tipped?  
Will the cats be microchipped?**

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

## Objectives

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

The funds from Florida Animal Friend will help us reach the families and pets in Polk County most in need of free spay/neuter services. With a grant of \$25,000 we will be able to spay or neuter 500 cats. This will lower the number of unwanted births, that is, animals coming in to Polk County Animal Control - and indirectly lower the number of animals euthanized there since this is 500 pet cats who will also be microchipped. We follow their live release rates closely and work to be a no-kill county by 2025. Polk County Animal Controls save rate for cats is: 2018, 24.15% 2019, 33.88% 2020, 44.72% The numbers are moving in the right direction, but there is still a long way to go to reach a 90% or higher live release rate.

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

After over a year with Covid-19 restrictions we can't afford to provide the community with free spay/neuter services, and the owners of these cats can't afford to pay for it. These 500 cats will not be sterilized without additional funding and we hope for your assistance. Together, we can make an impact!

## Methods

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

Pet owners will need to complete a short questionnaire that includes name, address, and phone number of the pet owner, and show proof of income that corresponds to government low-income guidelines. Examples of proof of income includes VA Disability, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Social Security Disability, pay stubs, and similar.

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

We will reach the target audience through a combination of media. We cooperate with for-profit veterinary clinics who forward people unable to pay to SPCA Florida's Medical Center. We will post about the free spay/neuter on our popular social media channels and websites, issue a press release, and place flyers at our monthly pet food bank. Signage will also be placed throughout the community. If this isn't sufficient to reach the target audience, we also advertise on four local radio stations weekly, and appear on local television once a month.

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

Volunteers and staff are ready to help. We have bilingual brochures and bilingual staff. As this is being written, we are looking at the possibility of taking our spay/neuter trailer on the road and offering services in various locations to help people with transportation problems. Another option is to offer transportation for those in need of assistance.

**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.**

If transportation assistance is needed, our trained transporters are required to show proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. SPCA Florida has liability insurance coverage and liability paperwork for drivers to sign. Transports will be done in SPCA Florida's vehicles constructed for moving animals.

## Veterinary Services

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

The surgeries will be performed by on-staff veterinarians in SPCA Florida's clinic or spay/neuter trailer.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
SPCA Florida Medical Center	5850 Brannen Rd S	Lakeland	FL	33813	863-646-7722	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked: Required  Yes, Fee to client  No

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
<b>Examination</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$24.00"/>
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$36.00"/>
<b>County License</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Microchip</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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 grant funds will cover the sterilization procedure and pain medication. SPCA Florida will cover vaccines, parasite medication, microchip, etc. The microchip may seem superfluous but will save lives - Polk County Animal Control euthanize all cats brought to them in traps unless they are microchipped. We are working to change this ordinance, but until then, microchipping is of utmost importance.

**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
Polk County Animal Control	We are working closely with Polk County Animal Control in an effort to increase their live release rates and become a no-kill county by 2025.

## 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 every pet we spay/neuter in our database and examine those numbers on a weekly basis. This will help ensure the program operates smoothly, and that we meet our goals and timeline.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 500 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$50.00

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

SPCA Florida will pay for necessary vaccines, microchip, and cap star as needed. If the pet has additional medical needs we will assist with veterinary care, paid for through our Guardian Angel Program.

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

2020 was a year like no other and affected our regular fundraisers, but in 2021 we plan to go back to in-person events. We are planning a Rock for Paws in May, a Walk for Animals in June, and an Auction for Animals in November. Funds from these events will be used to support the program. We also have a Guardian Angel program funded by grants and individual donors that ensures no pet will go without the veterinary care it needs.

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

72

/td>

**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:** 05/31/22

### 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.**

We have committed to reducing euthanasia rates at Polk County Animal Control. In order to accomplish our goal of a no-kill county by 2025, we must plan long-term, and prevent further overpopulation. This can only happen through spreading information, education, and greater outreach

regarding spay/neuter of both personal and community animals. We have private donors supporting these efforts and we are continuously applying for grants and holding fundraisers to be able to offer free and low-cost services. Our local Sheriff, Grady Judd, is spokesperson for the importance of spay/neuter.

### 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.**

**SPCA Florida will promote the program through placement on our website and social media channels, include it in press releases, and write about it in our newsletters. We will also place rack cards promoting Florida Animal Friend license plates in our adoption center lobby, medical center, and administration building. The license plates will be mentioned in all advertising about the program.**

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

**Unknown**