

Grant ID: 2051

Title of Proposal: Keeping Cats Alive
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$10,000.00
Check Payable To: Cats Alive Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Cats Alive Inc
Website Address: catsalive.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Chesney Brown
Position: Vice President/Secretary
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: chesney@catsalive.org
Agency Head: Chontelle Brown
Agency Head Email: chontelle@catsalive.org
Organization Business Address: PO Box 242
City: Fort White
State: FL
Zip: 32038
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 386-222-2989
Fax:
Cell: 352-258-3165

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 10/01/2019

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/20 **End:** 09/30/21

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$19,577.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$20,880.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 4

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 35.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Social media and other grantees

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: Year(s) denied/incomplete:

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2051	2022	Keeping Cats Alive	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
Chesney Brown	Vice President/Secretary	352-213-7272	College Student - Psychology
Chontelle Brown	President/Treasurer	352-258-3165	Director Clinical Revenue
Susan Sellers	Director	352-235-1268	Revenue Integrity Analyst

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

435 cats and 0 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?

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

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.

Cats Alive was founded in 2019 to target the unserved area of Fort White. Our program is donation based and no one is turned away due to their inability to pay for services. We are partnered with Operation Catnip of Gainesville who provides all of our medical services, as well as, The Humane Society of North Central Florida who provides intake for friendly cats and kittens who cannot safely be returned to their caregivers. Our President, Chontelle Brown is a fourth-generation resident of the area. She and her family are well-known and trusted in the area. She has 27 years' experience in managing large clinical revenue budgets, developing clinical practices and data analysis.

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?

Last fiscal year our program provided 435 spay-neuter surgeries. In order to help tackle the issue in Fort White and to sterilize more cats, Operation Catnip performed all spay-neuter surgeries at a highly subsidized rate of \$20 per cat. Even at the highly subsidized rate, only 25% of our expenses were covered by donations from caregivers. We rely heavily on private donors and work tirelessly on creative fundraising to cover the remaining expenses. This grant will increase impact in our community by 250 spay-neuter surgeries.

Florida Animal Friend grants are for low-cost and/or no-cost spay/neuter programs; If you currently have such a program, please describe

Cats Alive currently provides low-cost and no-cost spay-neuter surgeries for outdoor cats in the Fort White area. Our program is donation based and we ask caregivers to donate if they are able, however, a donation from the caregiver is not required for services. We remove all barriers which have prevented caregivers from having their cats sterilized in the past by providing trapping assistance, transportation and financial support.

Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:

Cats: 512 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Fort White, Columbia County, Zip code 32038
Total human population in target area:	10184
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	16.1
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	3087
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	2546

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	1698
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1223
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)	270
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.	
We believe the population of outdoor cats is higher than indicated in the calculations. Our area is mostly rural and located at the southern-most part of Columbia County, 30 minutes away from the county animal shelter and nearest low-cost vet clinic. We believe that instead of traveling the distance to our county animal shelter to surrender kittens and cats, caregivers keep them, allowing them to continue reproducing. Also, an additional 209 cats died in care at our county animal shelter, further reducing their live outcome rate.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Without access to adequate low-cost/no-cost spay-neuter services in the past, cat populations have mostly remained unchecked and have continued to increase over the years. Residents lack the funding or ability to transport cats to the nearest low-cost clinic 30 minutes away.	
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?	
The only low-cost spay-neuter clinic in Columbia County is located 30 minutes away in Lake City and lacks capacity to handle the volume of cats needing to be sterilized. North Florida PAWS currently provides low-cost spay-neuter vouchers for cats at North Florida Animal Rescue 30 minutes away, in neighboring Suwannee County. This program has income restrictions and we refer caregivers to their program when appropriate. However, many of our caregivers are not physically able to trap their cats and/or lack transportation, or are not able to pay for the services at these clinics – even at the low-cost rate. Operation Catnip has been providing our clinical services and agrees to continue providing all services as they have the capacity to accommodate growth in our program.	
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 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.

Fort White, Columbia County, zip code 32038, 107 square miles. We will also extend the program to the areas immediately adjacent to our target area if it is determined they impact our primary target area. This includes zip codes 32643 (Columbia County only), 32024 and 32025.

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

All outdoor cats in the target area are eligible for this program if they have a dedicated caregiver who provides them with food, water and basic care, and commits to continuing care. The target area is based on lack of prior programs available and experience with the area.

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

The target area is predominantly rural, mostly agricultural with a mix of residential.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 1950

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 1050

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 250

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

All cats sterilized through our program have dedicated caregivers who commit to continuing care for the cats, feeding and monitoring their health. Our program maintains relationships with our caregivers to ensure any issues are reported and addressed timely.

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:

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, who administers the animal services contract fully supports our efforts.

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

All cats have dedicated caregivers who feed them, on their property, minimizing the effect on wildlife due to hunger. We also work with a local wildlife rehabilitation service to develop trapping procedures to minimize the accidental trapping of wildlife.

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

Since we work directly with caregivers who feed and care for cats on their property, we have experienced very few situations where the cats were seen as a nuisance. On a few occasions, we were able to educate neighbors on the benefit of spaying and neutering and the positive impact it has on nuisance behaviors.

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.

Cats Alive is the first and only program to practice targeted spay-neuter in our area and we have built a trusting relationship with our community. We gather detailed information from caregivers by using online forms and phone calls. Trapping and transport schedules are strategically planned based on location and number of cats to provide assistance to the greatest number of cats possible. Cats Alive traps the cats and transports them to and from clinic.

Objectives

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

This grant will immediately impact our community by providing 250 spay-neuter surgeries in our target area.

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

Having limited volunteer hours available, we expend many of those hours on fundraising prior to being able to provide spay-neuter surgeries. This grant will allow us to immediately expand our program by 250 spay-neuter surgeries.

Methods

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

All outdoor cats in the target area are eligible with permission of the caregiver or property owner, and the commitment of the caregiver to continue feeding.

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

We will advertise on social media, with postcards (mailed and left at residences and businesses), on our website and through word of mouth. We will also add step-in 'yard' signs at entrance and exits points of specific targeted areas – this will help reach those who do not use social media, smart phones and/or computers.

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

Our program provides trapping assistance and transportation of cats. We remove all barriers for the caregivers - physical limitations, transportation and financial. Our volunteer team includes a Psychology major who provides guidance on assessing situations and effectively implementing solutions relating to literacy levels and varying socio-economic backgrounds.

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.

Our program provides transportation in climate-controlled vans and a bus. Cats are required to be confined in an approved trap for the duration of their time with us. Our volunteers are trained to safely handle trapped cats and to properly transport and provide care for them. Caregivers sign a liability release.

Veterinary Services

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

We are partnered with Operation Catnip of Gainesville to provide all clinical services. They have agreed to continue providing these services and have capacity to accommodate the additional 250 surgeries.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Operation Catnip of Gainesville	4111 NW 6th Street Suite C	Gainesville	FL	32609	352-380-0940	<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="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip	<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="\$10.00"/>
Other	<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 full fee for each surgical package is \$60. The \$20 not covered by the grant will be subsidized by Operation Catnip from their general funds.

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
Columbia County Board of County Commissioners	The Board of County Commissioners fully endorses and supports our program.
Humane Society of North Central Florida	The Humane Society of North Central Florida provides intake into their adoption program for friendly cats and kittens when returning them to the TNR site is not the best option.
North Florida PAWS	North Florida PAWS is a past grant recipient of FAF. They provide low-cost spay-neuter surgeries for low income residents in our area. We work collaboratively by referring qualified residents to their program when it is appropriate. They support our program by referring caregivers who do not qualify for their program or need assistance with trapping and transportation.

Other Information

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

All cats served by our program have caregivers who love and feed them. Many of the cats are those who wandered into their caregiver's yard - left unaltered, the population quickly grew. Though the caregivers love their cats and hated seeing them suffer, without a low-cost or no-cost option for care, they felt hopeless watching their cats and kittens suffer and often die. Our caregivers are extremely grateful for our assistance and through the relationships we have built, they have developed full trust in us and rely greatly on our program. Our partner clinic, Operation Catnip, has capacity to provide all additional spay-neuter surgeries. Without our program, there is no viable option for spay-neuter of outdoor cats for the residents we serve.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 250 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$10,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$40.00

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

Costs for exams, vaccinations, parasite treatment and other services will be subsidized by Operation Catnip from their general funds.

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

Cats Alive depends on donations from private donors and our fundraising efforts such as raffles, merchandise sales and eBay sales.

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

50%

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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: 08/20/22/ **Projected end date:** 08/19/23

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 are applying for other grant funding on alternating cycles. Additionally, we will continue our fundraising efforts with private donors and events.

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 will promote Florida Animal Friend on our website, on social media and press releases.

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

2