

Grant ID: 2084

Title of Proposal: HSSC Targeted S/N Grant For Cats

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$17,500.00

Check Payable To: Humane Society of Sarasota County, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Humane Society of Sarasota County

Website Address: hssc.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Anna Gonce

Position: Executive Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: agonce@hssc.org

Agency Head: Anna Gonce

Agency Head Email: agonce@hssc.org

Organization Business Address: 2331 15th ST

City: Sarasota

State: FL

Zip: 34237

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-955-4131

Fax:

Cell: 303-513-9263

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/01/1980

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/21 **End:** 12/31/21

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$3,598,730.82

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,730,995.86

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 41 Part Time: 3

Number of Active Volunteers: 452

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 330.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? From Humane Society of Manatee County. Please Note: Your date field for Date of Incorporation would not allow me to go back to 1954. I chose the oldest Year that I could.

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
2084	2022	HSSC Targeted S/N Grant For Cats	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
Alisa Heedy	Officer	352-678-7944	Attorney
Caryn Wilbraham	Officer	941-726-8282	Retired
Christopher Fowler	Chair, Governance Committee	941-954-4691	Attorney
Elizabeth Rabbitt-Stephen	Treasurer	614-314-6264	Truist Wealth
Janet Boyden	Vice President	941-364-4000	REALTOR
Jennifer Poppen	Secretary	847-514-6268	Fifth Third Bank
Jennifer Steube	President	941-343-7583	Synovus Bank
Julia Montei	Officer	941-702-3098	REALTOR
Lisa Eldridge	Officer	941-504-8894	Eldridge Body Shop
Mark Kowalski	Officer	941-961-5948	Insurance Agent
Michelle Matson	Officer	781-929-6401	Commercial Tract Specialist
Richard Lomax	Officer	205-310-9767	Retired Professor
Richard Perrone	Officer	941-915-2156	Construction
Richard Vacar	Officer	832-244-0902	Aviation
Robert Rothbard	Officer	805-637-8256	Retired
Sonia Gibson	Officer	404-849-7141	Registered Nurse
Teresa Jones	Former Board President	941-365-7171	Attorney

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

953 cats and 1258 dogs were admitted.

912 cats and 1216 dogs were adopted.

23 cats and 42 dogs were euthanized.

566 cats and 814 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.

Founded in 1952, the Humane Society of Sarasota County (HSSC) is Sarasota's oldest animal welfare organization. In 2009, HSSC became a no-kill shelter and recently completed a 38,000 sq. ft. new facility that doubled our capacity for care. At the heart of our mission is the core belief that every animal is cared for and loved. HSSC opened the Animal Clinic in February 2016 as a full-service veterinary hospital aiming to provide affordable, high-quality veterinary care to the community. Since opening in 2016, our Animal Clinic has treated 17,500+ individual patients. The Animal Clinic is located at 1090 North Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237, which is just one mile from our shelter. The Animal Clinic offers wellness care and vaccines, spay/neuter, geriatric care, heartworm treatment, laser therapy, endoscopy, dentistry, in-house diagnostics and radiographs, and general surgery. Clients appreciate the quality care at affordable prices, and the fact that all proceeds are used to offset the cost of caring for our shelter animals. The Animal Clinic is a two-doctor practice led by Dr. Kirsten Bui and Dr. Elizabeth Dammers. Dr. Kirsten Bui graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2017 and joined HSSC after graduation. Dr. Dammers graduated from the University of Florida and joined HSSC in 2019. Our veterinarians are supported by a team of 6 veterinary technicians, 3 receptionists, and a clinic manager.

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?

HSSC currently offers s/n services for owned pets at our Animal Clinic. We have two different packages – Gold and Silver. (Please refer to attached

Services Sheet.) Our Gold Package is ideal for higher-risk patients (seniors, obese, etc) and includes IV catheter fluids and the option for pre-surgical bloodwork panels. The Silver package is a standard HQHVSN package. Both packages are priced well below private practice rates, with the Silver Package being truly low-cost. Last year we performed a total of 475 s/n surgeries on owned pets at our Animal Clinic. Canine Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed: 324 Feline Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed: 151 The Animal Clinic was originally opened as a full-service veterinary practice without an emphasis on impacting intake in our county. The current Board of Directors, along with the current Executive Director, are steering the Animal Clinic toward offering affordable veterinary services that keeps pets in their homes (and therefore reduces the number of pets euthanized in shelters. Therefore, we are working on expanding the volume of s/n surgeries performed at our Animal Clinic. We are currently limited by our recovery cages to no more than 9 dogs and 10 cats on a single surgery day. We have dedicated one day week (46 weeks of the year) to low-cost s/n. In our current building, that would allow is to perform a total of 765 s/n surgeries, a 61% increase over 2021. Longterm, we are developing a Capital Campaign to redesign our space to truly accommodate more volume s/n. In 2020, the Save Rate for cats admitted to Sarasota County Animal Services was 91%. In 2021, the Save Rate for cats fell to 80%. We recently conducted a meeting with Sarasota County Animal Services and identified the top five highest intake zip codes for cats in Sarasota County. We need targeted s/n services for cats so that our Save Rate does not continue to decline and there are currently no targeted s/n programs in Sarasota County for owned cats.

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

In 2021, HSSC began offering a low-cost s/n package for income-qualified pet owners, called our Silver package. Last year, we performed 245 of these surgeries. Our current prices are: Canine Spay - \$150 Canine Neuter - \$100 Feline Spay - \$75 Cat Neuter - \$50 Number of "Silver" s/n surgeries performed: Canine: 133 Feline: 112

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

Cats: 112 **Dogs:** 133

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Sarasota County
Total human population in target area:	447057
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	8.7%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	135472
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	111765
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	74510
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1133
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1270
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	135
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	61
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
n/a	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
According to 2021 intake data at Sarasota County Animal Services, the top five highest intake zip codes for cats are: 1. 34287 -82 2. 34234 - 62 3. 34232-61 4. 34231-57 5. 34240-37 The majority of their cat intakes are the result of nuisance complaints from too many outdoor cats in residential areas. Targeted s/n of indoor/outdoor owned cats would prevent many of these nuisance complaints.	
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 Animal Rescue Coalition is currently the main provider of affordable, accessible spay and neuter services in Sarasota. However, their main focus is on providing free s/n services to the adoption ready dogs and cats for area rescue groups. Last year they supported more than 35 rescue groups, caring for more than 4,598 adoption ready dogs and cats. Our community needs more s/n services for the owned pets of low-income families, and we believe our Animal Clinic has an obligation to offer these services. The ever-growing income gap in Sarasota County has left pet owners with difficult decisions regarding their pet's health and what they can afford. Financial hardship is one of the main reasons why animals are surrendered to our shelter. Sarasota is now one of the most expensive places to live in Florida. Sarasota has some of the fastest rent hikes in the country, and home prices have skyrocketed. Increasingly, our working families are one paycheck or \$700 away from disaster. Statewide, Florida has seen an almost 30 percent spike in rental rates over the past 12 months, compared to the nationwide increase of 17.6 percent. In Sarasota County, that number jumps to a staggering 47 percent increase year over year—the overall median rent was \$2,249 a month in February 2022, as compared to \$1,529 in February of 2021. According to salary.com, Sarasota's cost of living is 3.3% higher than the national average. For comparison, our closest neighbor, Bradenton, is -3.2% lower than the national average. According to US Census data aggregated from 2015-2019, the wealthiest part of Sarasota County (Siesta Key) has median household income of \$102,143; the entire county's median household income is \$62,236; and the poorest part of Sarasota County (North Sarasota) has a median household income of \$40,356. The poverty rate in North Sarasota is 22.4%. The Animal Clinic is located squarely in North Sarasota. There are 5 IRS-designated qualified opportunity zones (low-income communities) in Sarasota County. Our clinic is adjacent to 4 of them. Data from Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Animal Services indicate that our zip code (34237) had the third-highest number of impounded animals in the county in 2020.	

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:

Pets in low-income families **Pit Bull / large breed dogs** **TNR managed colonies of feral cats** **Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned)** **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)?

HSSC will perform 350 free s/n services on owned cats of income-qualified residents in the top five intake zip codes for Sarasota County Animal Services. Those being: 34287 34234 34232 34231 34240

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

In 2021, we performed a total of 112 feline s/n for income-qualified residents in Sarasota County. Our goal is to increase that number to 460 feline s/n surgeries, an increase over our baseline of 311%.

Methods

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

At the time of service, HSSC will verify residency in one of the targeted zip codes through a valid Florida driver's license or two of the following: - Bank statement, mortgage statement - Rental agreement showing residential address - Florida vehicle or vessel registration or title - Utility bill/hookup order - Florida voter information card(link is external) - W-2 form or 1099 At the time of service, HSSC will also verify income eligibility. Families or individuals earning 100% of area median income in our targeted zip codes will be eligible. Income eligibility may be verified at the time of service by presenting any proof of the following: Medicaid Food Stamps WIC (Women, Infants and Children's Nutritional Services) SSI (Supplemental Security Income) SSD (Supplemental Security Disability Insurance) Medikids (Children Medicaid) Florida Health Kids Florida KidCare

CMS Network (Children’s Medical Services) VA (Veteran’s) Disability Pension SEC 8 (HUD rental assistance voucher) HUD income maximum – 100% AMI # in Household Maximum Income 1 \$54,050 2 \$61,800 3 \$69,500 4 \$77,200 5 \$83,400 6 \$89,600 Maximum income guidelines updated 5/2021 (Reference: Department of Housing and Urban Development)

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

HSSC has an inhouse Marketing Dept that promotes all of our programs & services. We will develop Marketing materials specifically for this grant, to include: Social media ad buys Social media promotion Radio promotion Press release and local media outreach Email outreach Website promotion Flyers Posters Advertising

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

HSSC already offers a variety of programs to under-served members of our community. Our Pet Food Pantry, for example. We have 70 years of experience successfully addressing barriers to programs.

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

Veterinary Services

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

All surgeries will be performed at our Animal Clinic, which is located at 1090 North Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237. Our Animal Clinic is a two-doctor practice. We will block off one day per week for surgeries to be performed through this grant.

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

Veterinary Practices

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	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$20.00
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$15.00
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 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:

We currently require an e-collar and include that in the price of the surgery.

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
No records to display.	

Other Information

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

HSSC will reserve one morning a week at our Animal Clinic for volume s/n to support this program. We will dedicate one DVM supported by three techs for surgery.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 350 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$17,500.00

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.):

N/A

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

N/A

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

100%

/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: 09/01/22/ **Projected end date:** 09/01/23

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.**

Without the grant funds, HSSC would still offer low-cost s/n services for income-qualified residents in Sarasota County. We would not, however, be able to offer them at no cost.

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.**

A grant would award Florida Animal Friend "Annual Partner" status for the year. All HSSC Annual Partners receive the following benefits: • Logo and website link on HSSC's homepage (500,000+ unique views per year) and partner webpage • Tagged posts on HSSC's Facebook (23,000+ followers) and Instagram (5,200+ followers) pages • Inclusion in HSSC's Annual Impact Report (published in January) • Logo on partner signage in HSSC lobby (13,000+ visitors each year) • Spotlight in our "Pawsitive Press" eNewsletter (20,000+ subscribers) • Special "HSSC Partner" digital logo and door decal for your use • Submission to Sarasota Herald-Tribune's Good Deeds • Exclusive content and invitations

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

Unknown