

Grant ID: 2039

Title of Proposal: The "Big Fix" Spay/Neuter and Rabies Voucher Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Humane Society/SPCA of Sumpter County, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc.

Website Address: <https://yhsspca.org/>

Person Submitting Proposal: Morgan M. Gish, MSW

Position: Shelter Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: Director@hsspca.org

Agency Head: Morgan M. Gish, MSW

Agency Head Email: director@hsspca.org

Organization Business Address: 994 County Road 529A

City: Lake Panasoffkee

State: Florida

Zip: 33538

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-793-9117

Fax:

Cell: 352-355-5862

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/20/1995

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$854,307.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$696,306.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 8 Part Time: 4

Number of Active Volunteers: 150

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 300.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Past Recipient

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2009, 2011 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2013, 2014

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
36	2009	Spay/Neuter Vouchers for Low-Income Residents of Sumter County	Funded
73	2009	Spay/Neuter Services for Needy Residents of Sumter County	Denied
201	2011	Free Spay/Neuter Project	Funded
339	2013	Low Income Spay/Neuter Program	Denied (not completed)
1392	2014	Low Income Soay/Neuter Voucher Program	Denied (not completed)
1441	2015	Spay/Neuter Voucher System	Funded
1624	2007		Denied
1696	2017	Free Spay/Neuter Voucher Program	Denied

1760	2018	Spay/Neuter Voucher Program	Denied (not completed)
2039	2022	The "Big Fix" Spay/Neuter and Rabies Voucher Program	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
1 - Hope Wilson	Chairman	352-738-8809	Realtor
2 - Cheryl Courtright	Vice Chairman	815-541-1897	Healthcare Administrator
3 - Grover Stewart	Secretary	352-303-1321	Engineer - Retired
4 - Maureen Mc Cosker	Treasurer	215-738-8809	Financial Analyst

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

384 cats and 222 dogs were admitted.

369 cats and 182 dogs were adopted.

9 cats and 6 dogs were euthanized.

393 cats and 221 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 is performed before any adoption except if animals have specific medical issues as noted by our veterinarian. In rare cases, if an animal is designated to become a service animal and requires further time for growth plate development, an agreement is made with the adopter that their veterinarian will perform sterilization at the appropriate time. Proof of sterilization is required.

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

Please see the statement above.

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.

The Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc., dba/YOUR Humane Society SPCA, (HSSPCA) helps animals as Sumter County Florida's oldest and largest private no-kill shelter. The HSSPCA is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a nonprofit serving Sumter County's animals and their people and has the facilities, programs, and personnel to carry out the work described in this grant application. Our mission is to protect animals and is carried out through direct care for animals that are injured, abused, unwanted, or abandoned, securing homes for as many as possible; and through community assistance programs including spay/neuter services and pet food distribution as well as providing humane education and pet safety information in order to reduce pet overpopulation and improve the quality of life for local animals. The shelter is on a 5-acre site with newly expanded cat and dog housing in Lake Panasoffkee, FL. HSSPCA has qualified personnel to conduct the duties and oversee the responsibilities of caring for animals. Morgan M. Gish, MSW, joined the Humane Society/SPCA as the Shelter Director. She has extensive experience working with smaller to larger nonprofits in development and administration. Tom Baumann is the Shelter Operations Manager. He has considerable experience in running both adoption and surgical programs. Tom, with assistance from Estrella Gusman, oversees our "Big Fix" spay/neuter voucher program. Mike VanDemark, serves as our bookkeeper and maintains the accounting for funds allocated for our public assistance programs. Spay/neuter

procedures and rabies vaccinations are carried out at Planned Pethood Cares, a nonprofit, high volume, low-cost clinical facility; this clinic is in Lake Panasoffkee which partners with HSSPCA for the purposes of honoring the Big Fix vouchers. This clinic is also located in Lake Panasoffkee.

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?

HSSPCA has an annual budget of \$35,000 set aside to fund the Big Fix program for the next fiscal year. This will be sufficient for approximately 700 vouchers. In January and February of this year, 70 vouchers have already been issued. We apply for spay/neuter and vaccination grants on an ongoing basis because we have the capacity to help more families and their pets.

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, the "Big Fix" Free Spay/Neuter Voucher program issued vouchers for 299 dogs and 552 cats to qualifying families throughout Sumter County; there were 76 voids (8.9%). We estimate that the Big Fix program prevented the birth of potentially 3,600 kittens and 2,400 puppies last year. The organization has invested more than \$35,000 in this vital effort to curb animal overpopulation, homelessness, and needless suffering.

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

Cats: 688 **Dogs:** 211

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Lake Panasoffkee, Sumter County, Zip codes: 32162,33809, 32159, 32163, 34736, 34785, 33513, 34484, 33597, 33538, 33585, 33514, 33521 GIS: https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/105/GIS
Total human population in target area:	129,752
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	13.7%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	39319
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	32438
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	21626
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
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)	N/A
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.	
Our target area is the rural south end of our county. The overall figure (13.7%) for the percentage of the population of Sumter County below the poverty level is misleading. Almost 40% of the population of Sumter County lives in The Villages (situated in Sumter, Lake, and Marion Counties). The Villages is an age-restricted, animal-friendly community; only 3.7% of the population in that area is below the poverty level. Most residents in The Villages are well served by private veterinary clinics. The remaining areas of Sumter County are disproportionately in low-income, rural areas, and several of the largest cities in Sumter have greater than 20% of their population below the poverty level. This is significant because the services of HSSPCA are especially needed by families and pets in these low-income areas.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
The rural areas of Sumter County have numerous multiple pet families and the cost of veterinary care is often burdensome. In addition, there is a culture of feeding strays and feral animals adding to overpopulation.	
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 north area of our county is a relatively affluent retirement community well-served by veterinary practices. The south end of our county is rural. Many folks meet or fall below the poverty level and simply cannot afford standard veterinary procedures. There is one low-cost non-profit clinic in our county and one in a nearby county.	
Florida Animal Friend is highly supportive of proposals that are focused on animal populations that are identified as substantial sources of dog or cat overpopulation rather than being diluted over too broad of a geographic area or diverse animal populations. Describe the specific target animal population(s) of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

TNR Managed Colony Feral Cat Program/Community Cats (Free-Roaming and/or Owned) Program

Define the precise boundaries of the colony or targeted area, including estimate of square miles.

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 0**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 0**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 0**For TNR program, describe the ability to maintain lifelong care for remaining cats, commitment level of volunteers/organizations, etc.**

N/A

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

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Our current budget for the Big Fix program is sufficient to cover the costs for about 700 spay/neuter and vaccination procedures. This year, HSSPCA began including the cost of a cone and 5 days of pain medication for inside cats and all dogs. The additional expense slightly reduces the overall number of vouchers we can offer, but we feel strongly that these additions make the surgical process much more humane than it has previously been. Additional funding through this grant will help us offset the difference while enabling us to offer even more vouchers to our local community. The Florida Animal Friend grant of \$25,000 would allow us to provide an additional 500 sterilization/vaccination procedures. In addition, veterinary procedures are becoming more costly and funding is needed to cover as many procedures as possible.

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

Last year we provided 851 vouchers that were utilized for 775 procedures (91%). We can increase the number of procedures with additional funding.

Methods

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

There are two criteria for eligibility for the Big Fix program. The applicant must be a resident of Sumter County to apply. Financial eligibility is determined by household income as documented by receipt of State/Federal assistance. There is a sliding scale to cover the total cost: Yearly Income \$ 50 – 25,000 ----Cost for Big Fix \$0-----Cost Rabies Vax \$0----Total for Both Svcs \$0 ----- Yearly Income \$25,001 – 28,000 ----Cost for Big Fix \$20-----Cost Rabies Vax \$15---Total for Both Svcs. \$35.00---- Yearly Income \$28,001 – 30,000 ----Cost for Big Fix \$35-----Cost Rabies Vax \$15---Total for Both Svcs. \$50.00---- Yearly Income \$30,001 – 40,000 ----Cost for Big Fix \$50-----Cost Rabies Vax \$15---Total for Both Svcs. \$65.00-----

Yearly Income \$40,001 or more Program is NOT Available.----- Note - Feral/Community/Barn Cats qualify for free spay/neuter, with a maximum of ten cats per month per colony.

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

Humane Society/SPCA and its programs are well known in the Sumter County area. The HSSPCA participates in many community events. The Big Fix, spay/neuter, and vaccination program will be advertised on our website, our Facebook page, and in the paper. However, word of mouth is our best source.

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

Other than the eligibility factors noted above, we have categorically reduced any barriers to participating in our programs. With regard to transportation, Sumter County has a public transportation system. If needed, we are able to provide contact information for them. We are also able to verbally explain the program if someone is unable to read. With regard to cultural hurdles, we do not discriminate against people for any reason, including socioeconomic status. This program, by its very nature, is meant to assist people who cannot afford to have their pets spayed/neutered on their own.

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.

The shelter does not provide transportation and recipients of vouchers provide their own vehicles. Also, Sumter County has a public transportation system, and if needed, we are able to provide contact information for them.

Veterinary Services

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

We have agreements with Planned Pethood Cares, 735 E. County Rd 470, Lake Panasoffkee, to honor our vouchers at a non-profit rate. Please see the letter of support.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Planned Pethood Cares	735 E, County Road 470	Lack Panasofkee	Florida	33538	352-568-9994	<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="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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="\$13.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 Required Optional Not Available No Yes

HW Testing Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Feline Leuk/FIV Required Optional Not Available No Yes

County License Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Ear tipping Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Microchip Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Other Required Optional Not Available No Yes

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

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

Planned Pethood Cares Veterinary Clinic charges \$40 to neuter a male cat and \$50 to spay a female cat. The rate for sterilization for male dogs is \$65 to \$100 and for female dogs is \$75-\$110. The cost for rabies vaccination is \$10. The HSSPCA Big Fix Voucher program reduces these costs dependent on household income (see prior scale). The voucher covers the cost of rabies vaccination and pain medication.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

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

We assure compliance with the program by staying in communication with recipients. We ask them to call us and tell us their appointment date. Then we call to make sure the appointment was kept. Additionally, we are able to see which vouchers were completed on a monthly basis via the veterinarian's monthly invoice.

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

Planned Pethood Cares Veterinary Clinic conducts the necessary procedures connected to the Big Fix vouchers. We requested information related to the capacity of the clinic to conduct additional procedures that would be funded by the Florida Animal Friend grant. Tonia Hernandez, Office Manager at Planned Pethood Cares, e-mailed: "We can do as many as you provide us with... Keep sending those vouchers and I will get them on the schedule."

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

Yes, we will be able to report the number of vouchers used because we follow up with the recipients and cancel vouchers of people that don't use their vouchers in a timely manner.

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
Sumter County Animal Services	Referral

Other Information

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

The HSSPCA has a strong history of offering vouchers for the spay/neuter program; the program has been actively conducted since 2008. We have well-established office procedures for providing and monitoring vouchers and usage. We have a strong relationship with Planned Pethood Cares, who we work with in tandem to ensure we are doing everything we can to help quell the overpopulation of cats and dogs within our community. Please see the additional file in the Upload section for more information about the HSSPCA.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 300 **Dogs:** 200

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.):

Recipients that opt for any other procedures must cover them with the veterinarian. We do not provide them.

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

We currently have designated a budget of \$35,000 which may be exhausted sooner than expected.

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

42%

/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: 06/01/22/ **Projected end date:** 05/31/23

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.**

The HSSPCA applies for grants on an ongoing basis. We have individuals who will help fund our program. This program has been successfully funded since 2008.

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.**

The HSSPCA supports the Florida Animal Friend specialty license plates on our website and our HSSPCA van has the spay/neuter license plate.

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

Unknown