

Grant ID: 2072

Title of Proposal: Unincorporated St. Lucie County Public /TNVR Spay Neuter Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$20,000.00

Check Payable To: Operation SOS

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Operation SOS

Website Address: https://www.operationsos.net/

Person Submitting Proposal: Dr. Julie Kittams

Position: Executive Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: operationsosflorida@gmail.com

Agency Head: Brian Bohmueller

Agency Head Email: Brian.Bohmueller@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 9196 SE Karin St.

City: Hobe Sound

State: FL

Zip: 33455

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): (772)222-7717

Fax:

Cell: (503)317-4247

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 07/21/2011

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$320,000.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$361,000.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 3 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 3

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 30.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Animal Friend License Purchase

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 1 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1832	2019	Okeechobee Public Spay Neuter Program	Funded
2072	2022	Unincorporated St. Lucie County Public /TNVR Spay Neuter 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
Brian Bohmueller	President	(267)471-0264	Author
Dr. Julie Kittams	Executive Director	(503)317-4247	Veterinarian
Dr. Sara Matthews	Vice President	(772)567-8468	Veterinarian
Holly A. Shearin	Secretary	(772)708-1332	Lab Animal Technologist
Joanne Bury	Treasurer	(772)285-0002	Retired Physical Therapist

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.

1881 cats and 1035 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?

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.

The Operation SOS surgery van partners with area shelters, municipalities and private trappers to maximize our reach and impact in the area. Our licensed Veterinarian and two Vet assistants specialize in HQ/HV sterilization and TVNR protocols. Together our organization's skills and motivation can accomplish Animal Friend program objectives efficiently and cost effectively.

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?

We were one of two providers for public spay/neuter and the only provider of TNVR for St. Lucie County until October 2021. At that time, the municipality broke off their TNVR contract, then cut the per-animal funding to a price we could not accommodate. To date, they have not resumed their municipal program to any appreciable level, with no plans for the future to rectify the gap in services. From 2018 to 2021, we performed: 234 cats, 223 dogs and 427 TNVR.

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

We receive no funding for sterilizations or TNVR operations in Unincorporated St. Lucie County. This funding would complement our existing funding from the adjacent municipalities that we support.

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

Cats: 144 Dogs: 34

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Unincorporated St. Lucie County, Florida
Total human population in target area:	77,343
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	16.8
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	23438
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	19336

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	12891
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
<p>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. During the the last year, St. Lucie County was administrating the local municipal shelter that had closed 18 months prior due to mismanagement. The historical annual intake was 5,000 animals. During the time St. Lucie County ran the facility, the annual intake dropped to 800 animals. This drastic drop in animals was due to the very limited services of the Temporary Shelter, resulting in an astronomical increase in area private shelters being filled beyond their capacity for care. Our Organization granted start-up funds to create a new nonprofit, Sunrise Humane Society, to take back the Shelter as a true public service. The data presented to us from the operations of the Temporary Shelter are not a true indication of the actual animal population based on historical data and the data Sunrise Humane Society has generated since March, 2021, which within months of opening saw a 236% increase in animal intakes compared to the St. Lucie County Temporary Shelter. Therefore, we have have provided data we feel more accurately reflects the true need.</p>	
<p>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: The primary source of overpopulation come from the large number of households that cannot afford the local veterinary hospital pricing for spay/neuter surgery. The second most substantial source of overpopulation are feral cats in the absence of a functional, readily-available TVNR program.</p>	
<p>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? St. Lucie County governance offers a 'voucher' program just for publicly-owned animals. The only Veterinary provider of this voucher currently only uses the voucher as covering the surgical cost. Additional services (office call, lab work, IV catheter/fluids) are required for the surgery. Most clients cannot afford the entire package.</p>	
<p>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:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	

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.

Unincorporated St. Lucie County is 481.8 square miles.

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

We use the St. Lucie County property appraisers website to confirm address is within the designated boundaries. We service the adjacent municipalities so there is always a safety net to capture those animals not falling within the Unincorporated St. Lucie County boundary.

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

The area is a mix of all of the above, but most is residential and rural

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 12891

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 600

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.

We work with most of the local Organizations to support the following: Trap Rental, Trap-Use Training, Volunteer Trappers, Scheduling, Answering phones/referrals. Additionally, we have stabilized the local Municipal Animal Shelter (Sunrise Humane Society). It provides trap rentals, a Food bank and other resources to enable Community Cat caretakers.

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

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

Trap-neuter-vaccinate release can be done by anyone. The funding through the municipality is tied to one Veterinary hospital that rarely provides surgery slots. To-date, that program has sterilized an estimated 40 cats, clearly not enough to get ahead of the problem.

(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:

Operation CatSnip, Raining Cats Rescue, Cats Forever, City of Fort Pierce, Sunrise Humane Society

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

Educating the public on keeping cats indoors through our partnering Shelter, Sunrise Humane Society. Any cats that are considered adoptable are transferred to Sunrise Humane Society for adoption and not re-released.

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

In select cases, we can attempt to work with Colony caretakers to consider relocating some cats.

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.

Operation SOS is the only provider of TNVR for all of the following areas: City of Fort Pierce, City of Port St. Lucie, Unincorporated St. Lucie County, Okeechobee County.

Objectives

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

The goals: 1) Continue an in-place program in Unincorporated St. Lucie County 2) Continue a TNVR program in partnership with local shelters and private trappers.

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

This program will provide a drastic increase in the number of sterilization surgeries being accomplished for two reasons: 1) Affordability 2) Vastly more accessible services

Methods

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

Low-income clients are asked to show proof of enrollment in a Federal program or last year's taxes. Programs we accept: WIC, Food Stamps, Disability, Medicare, Medicaid, Unemployment, Veteran, School Lunch.

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

We have a network of local advertisers in place that promote our current outreach dates. Most significantly are Sunrise Humane Society, Tractor Supply and local humane shelters. These organizations have worked closely with us for years to promote our public program.

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

We work closely with other area Rescues/Shelters in addressing issues such as transportation. Our literature is translated in to Spanish. We spend the time to read aloud admission forms and go-home instructions to clients with literary challenges.

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.

Yes. Area rescues/shelters have their trappers bring animals for surgery and perform the releases. They utilize their personal vehicles under their own liability insurance for their own Organizations.

Veterinary Services

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

We are the provider of services: Operation SOS.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Operation SOS	9196 SE Karin St	Hobe Sound	FL	33455	(772)222-7717	<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="\$5.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$5.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>

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

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
Examination	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
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 <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
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 <input type="text" value="\$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	<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="\$10.00"/>
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 TNVR program will be at no charge to participants.

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
Operation CatSnip	Trappers and Client Referral
Sunrise Humane Society	We work with...

Other Information

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

Operation SOS is committed to finding a long-term solution to the lack of access to low cost spay/neuter services to Unincorporated St. Lucie County residents.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 200 **Dogs:** 100

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$20,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$67.00

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

None.

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

None.

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

79%

/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: 10/01/22/ **Projected end date:** 08/15/23

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.**

Through the last year of reopening and stabilizing the municipal shelter, Sunrise Humane Society, Operation SOS has granted over \$40k in resources. This explains the next-loss of the past fiscal year. A portion of these funds, \$20,000, is reserved to create a fixed-location HQ/HV spay/neuter clinic to service all of St. Lucie County residents. The goal is to have this in-service by 2024.

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.**

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Operation SOS will promote the Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate program through our website (www.operationsos.net), Facebook, Twitter presences and in our quarterly newsletter. Additionally, our mobile veterinary van will continue to display proudly its Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate.

**Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:
2**