

Grant ID: 2040

**Title of Proposal:** LARGE DOGS AND CATS

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** PAWS LEE COUNTY INC

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** PAWS LEE COUNTY INC

**Website Address:** pawsofleecounty.org

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Theresa Ink

**Position:** Founder

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** t.ink@att.net

**Agency Head:** Theresa Ink

**Agency Head Email:** t.ink@att.net

**Organization Business Address:** 965 Pondella Road

**City:** Ft Myers

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 33903

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-652-6722

**Fax:**

**Cell:** 239-994-2514

Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 09/30/2009

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$462,044.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$486,999.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 1 Part Time: 3

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 10

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 20.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous recipient

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2010,2012,2014,2016,2018,2020 Year(s) denied/incomplete:

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
138	2010	Suncoast Low Cost Assistance	Funded
297	2012	Surgery Assistance	Funded
1391	2014	LARGE DOG SPAY/NEUTER	Funded
1646	2016	2016 Large Dog	Funded
1757	2018	Dog and Cat Assistance 2018	Funded
1903	2020	DOG & CAT ASSISTANCE 2020	Funded
2040	2022	LARGE DOGS AND CATS	Funded

**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

**Describe your Organization:**

**Services Provided**

Open Admission Intake Shelter

**Organization Structure:**

City, county, or tribal agency

- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other
- Private nonprofit agency
- TNR Group
- Rescue Group
- Other

**List your current board of directors:**

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Adrienne Gettman	Director	239-246-5247	Office manager
Carlos Deulofeu, DVM	Director	239-652-6722	Veterinarian
Marybeth Kingsley	Director	630-854-3903	Retired
Thais Herrera, DVM	Director	239-652-6722	Veterinarian
Theresa Desilets Ink	Director	239-243-8651	Retired

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**40 cats and 20 dogs were admitted.**

**40 cats and 20 dogs were adopted.**

**0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.**

**2756 cats and 1758 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.**

We have been in operation since December 1998 and have performed more than 95,000 surgeries to date. Theresa Ink, our founder, started our first spay/neuter clinic in 1998 in a shopping center in a very poor section of N Ft. Myers. In January 2013 we were able to purchase a 2500 square foot building with 3/4 of an acre near our original location. Next year the mortgage will be PAID OFF. We are still located 10 minutes from 2 of the poorest neighborhoods in Lee County. All of our employees are dedicated to this mission of reducing pet over population. Dr Mark Schmidt has worked with us for 8 years. Previously, he donated many hours to shelter medicine in Iowa, where he owned a full service practice for 25 years. This year he has turned the major surgery duties over to Dr Carlos Deulofeu who has been with us on a part time basis for 4 years. We are thrilled to have Dr Carlos carry on our mission. His surgery skills are exceptional. Our employees have a combined 35 years of experience in caring for domestic pets. Theresa Ink has a BSBA in Economics and a BSBA in Accounting from The University of Florida. This business background has enabled her to manage the business side of a spay/neuter clinic. We take in a VERY limited number of dogs and cats for adoption. Usually because of eviction, incarceration or medical problems. They almost always need to be spayed or neutered.

**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 currently spay or neuter about 4500 dogs or cats per year. While most of our clients pay something, we still have clients who can pay very little. In some situations it is because they have too many dogs or cats and are only sterilizing the females. After 23 years of running a low cost clinic, we are still certain that the biggest contributors to the pet over population are those with the least funds. In the last few years we have tried to increase our emphasis to our poorer surrounding communities. Covid derailed that a little. Hopefully we can get back to helping these counties such as Glades and Hendry.

**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 are a low-cost spay neuter clinic. Hopefully, this question was answered with the previous explanation of our clinic.

**Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:**  
**Cats:** 2756 **Dogs:** 1758

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Lee, Glades, Hendry
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	809,890
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	25
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	245422
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	202473
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	134982
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3929
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4723
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1589
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	782
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> I do not believe our target population is significantly different from above.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> Low income individuals, working poor and unsupported or unmonitored feral colonies are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation.	
<b>What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area and in what ways are these resources currently insufficient to meet community needs?</b> Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) provides spay/neuter services in part of our target area but they are 35 to 40 minutes from our clinic which is in North Fort Myers. Two very low income neighborhoods are 10 minutes from our clinic. We have always picked up pets for surgery if there is a transportation problem. LCDAS cannot usually provide this service. We have also provided spay/neuter services for the poorer rural counties near Lee, such as Glades and Hendry who have very few veterinary resources in their area. Gulf Coast Humane Society also performs spay/neuter services in Lee County. they are located in East Ft Myers and are closer to neighborhoods in central and east Ft Myers and Lehigh Acres.	
<b>Florida Animal Friend is highly supportive of proposals that are focused on animal populations that are identified as substantial sources of dog or cat overpopulation rather than being diluted over too broad of a geographic area or diverse animal populations. Describe the specific target animal population(s) of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Pets in low-income families</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Pit Bull / large breed dogs</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>TNR managed colonies of feral cats</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	

**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.**

We will spay or neuter TNR Managed Colonies or Community Cats from anywhere in Southwest Florida which includes Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry.

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

Eligibility for this program is anyone who needs financial assistance with outdoor cats that are receiving basic care such as food/water and shelter. Usually the number of cats that need to be spayed or neutered requires that the care givers receive some amount of financial assistance to get them all spayed or neutered.

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

The target area can be rural, suburban or urban. It is usually commercial or residential but is occasionally agricultural.

**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?**

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:**

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.**

A few of these cats may be feral but most are close to a residence or business and the feeders consider them their personal cats. In some cases they started with 2 cats and now after a litter they are desperate to get them "fixed". They will still be ear tipped because they are inside/outside cats. We will encourage microchipping but we do not require that they are chipped.

## Objectives

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

225 spay/neuter surgeries for large dogs and 100 spay/neuter surgeries for cats

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

The funds provided by this program would subsidize 325 surgeries for those pet owners who cannot afford to cover the cost of the pet's sterilization, even through a low cost clinic such as PAWS. This will result in our ability to provide more surgeries to reduce the overpopulation in our area.

## Methods

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

Any pet owner who has a large dog or a cat and they are on public assistance will be eligible for this program. Additionally, if they are not on public assistance but can demonstrate a financial hardship or need, they will be deemed eligible. For example, a costly human medical problem that limits their ability to spay or neuter their pet(s).

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

Facebook and Craig's List have been an excellent way to reach our target market. After 23 years of performing spay/neuter surgeries, word of mouth continues to be an excellent way to reach our target audience.

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

We have always provided transportation when necessary. If the cultural barriers are not excessively strong, we explain the medical benefits of spay/neuter and it usually helps eliminate the cultural barriers. Through sustained and caring services, we have eliminated some of the cultural barriers. Clients of varied ethnicities have come to trust us and our mission. If they come for food and have unaltered pets, we will provide a few days of food until we can get them in for surgery. We have found some of our "best" clients come to us thru the food pantry.

**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.**

We sometimes transport pets in our personal vehicles. We seek the assistance of the pet's owner in the handling of the pet. Each of our staff have received training to ensure the safety of the pet and the transporter.

## Veterinary Services

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

Dr. Carlos Delofoeu is our primary on staff veterinarian and he has been with us for about 4 years. Dr. Mark Schmidt who has been with us for 8 years is now on part-time basis. Dr. Ethan Mosley works for an emergency referral practice but has helped us for about 5 years on an as needed basis.

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	\$15.00	\$19.00	\$34.00
Range for Female Cats	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$42.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$15.00	\$100.00	\$115.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$15.00	\$100.00	\$115.00

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

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
<b>Examination</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$15.00
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$5.00
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$25.00
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$25.00
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Microchip</b>	<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
<b>Other</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

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

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

If our clients pay for additional services, it is usually microchipping, FVRCP, DA2PP or testing.

**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
Gulf Coast Humane Society	As with LCDAS, they refer clients to us when it is more convenient for the client to come to our facility. Occasionally, we take in pets from a client who can no longer care for them. Usually this is when we feel like we need to do it rapidly for fear the pet will be "dumped". We perform surgery and other medical assistance and then move to GCHS for adoption. We also work together sharing information when we are looking for an additional veterinarian or technician. Our directors communicate frequently about a situation with a pet or a family that needs assistance.
Lee County Domestic Animal Services	We share referrals to find the most convenient location for our clients. They have handouts in their lobby which list PAWS as an option for spay/neuter services. We are listed on their web site as an affordable spay/neuter option. The animal control officers that are assigned to our part of the county frequently give out our information for spay/neuter services.

**Other Information**

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

We have many clients who come to us and can afford our prices either "full pay" or public assistance. However, we serve very very low income and they are not able or willing to pay these prices for spay/neuter surgery. This grant will enable us to reach these clients and turn down almost no one. It gives us another tool to encourage those who are just calling for information and are hesitant because of the price.

**Budget**

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 100 **Dogs:** 225

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$77.00

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

The only expenses that are not included in the grant are microchips, heartworm tests, Leuk/AIDS tests or vaccines. Ear notching is free. The client will pay extra for these additional services which we encourage but don't require.

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

We frequently apply for other grants from national spay/neuter funding services to assist us with the cost of surgery. All of our fundraising efforts are allocated to this same need.

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

**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.**

We have always been able to provide some surgeries at no or very low cost ( 50 to 100 per year). These are paid for from the operating funds that we receive from paying clients. We just can't provide the number of low low cost surgeries from operating funds that we receive from grants. We have received funds in the past from PetSmart, Maddie's Fund, DJ&T (Bob Barker) and others. In addition, we have a small Number of local supporters who have followed us for many years. They routinely make donations to us and are always available when special circumstances arise.

**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 have always promoted the purchase of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plates through Facebook and our PAWS website. We have reported how the success of the license plate program is crucial to dealing with the dog and cat overpopulation program in our communities. We point out the Florida Animal Friend brochures to our clients that are in our front lobby. We always mention the program when we speak at organizations in our community.

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

**6**