

Grant ID: 2058

**Title of Proposal:** Spay it Forward  
**Agency Type:** Non-Profit  
**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00  
**Check Payable To:** Save Our Cats and Kittens, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Save Our Cats and Kittens, Inc. **Website Address:** www.saveourcatsandkittens.com  
**Person Submitting Proposal:** Hannah Neville **Position:** Grant Writer  
**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** hannah@coastalgrants.com  
**Agency Head:** Nancy Schimmer **Agency Head Email:** nancy@saveourcatsandkittens.com  
**Organization Business Address:** 498 Carmel Drive **City:** Fort Walton Beach  
**State:** FL **Zip:** 32547  
**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 850-863-5756 **Fax:**  
**Cell:** 850-865-6866

Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/12/1998  
**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/21 **End:** 12/31/21  
**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$454,101.24  
**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$431,797.26  
**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 5 Part Time: 3  
**Number of Active Volunteers:** 137  
**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 20.00  
**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** We found this funding opportunity online.  
**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):**  
**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 1

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1978	2021	Spay it Forward	Denied (not completed)
2058	2022	Spay it Forward	Funded

**Describe your Organization:**

**Services Provided**

- Open Admission Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other Thrift Store

**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
Ayesha Haider	Treasurer	661-802-2178	Business Initiative Consultant
Brian Ward	Board Member	850-449-2196	Professor
Dawn Montoya	Board Member	954-304-1055	Nurse (retired)
Elaine Sheldon	Board Member	850-225-4200	Advertising Sales (retired)
Nancy Schimmer	Executive Director	850-6866	President of SOCKS
Terry Mauer	Vice President	812-717-0079	Business Consultant

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**391 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.**

**447 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.**

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

**0 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.**

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

- Stray/Lost pet intake
- Foster Program
- Wellness services to understand pet owners
- Volunteer Program
- Owner surrendered animals
- Food Bank
- Cruelty investigation
- High volume spay/neuter clinic
- Lost and Found Program
- Behavior counseling
- Enforcement of ordinances
- Full service wellness clinic
- Adoption Program
- Disaster services

**If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption?**

Yes

**If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?**

**If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption?**

N/A

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

N/A

**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.**

SOCKS has previously received minimal funding through Okaloosa County in order assist residents with covering costs associated with sterilizing felines. SOCKS received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback for the use of these funds, and SOCKS wants to be able to offer a low-cost spay/neuter service to more residents in order to help control the overpopulation of cats in Okaloosa and surrounding counties.

**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?**

SOCKS does not currently have a clinic on site. SOCKS coordinates with local vets to perform low-cost spay/neuters for low-income county residents. This low-cost program is currently funded by an ongoing capital campaign and is regularly advertised through our social media postings and during fundraisers.

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

SOCKS currently does not an have existing program.

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

**Cats: 0 Dogs: 0**

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Okaloosa County
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	210783
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	63874
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	63874
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	52696

<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	35131
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> We believe this figure is accurate, if not possibly higher.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> SOCKS believes that the lack of low-cost spay/neuter clinics available to local residents is a large contributing factor to the overpopulation of felines in the county. Additionally, community residents could greatly benefit from educational content regarding feline sterilization. Current spay/neuter services for the average person cost more than they can afford, so eliminating any financial barriers and increasing access to these low-cost services will help decrease feline 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> Currently, privately owned veterinary practices in Okaloosa County offer regularly-priced spay/neuter services. There is no physical clinic established to offer these services at low-cost to Okaloosa County residents. Surrounding counties also struggle with the availability of low-cost clinics.	
<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 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.**

The boundaries for project "Spay it Forward" include Okaloosa County, which has 13 cities and covers 1,082 square miles.

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

Residents must live in Okaloosa County and be looking after a feline in need of sterilization. Low-income residents are eligible copay waivers with proof of qualifying government assistance documentation.

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

The majority of Okaloosa County is rural with suburban areas. The County is mostly composed of agricultural or residential areas.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :** 35000

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized:** 2500

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:** 415

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

The colonies that we are going to be working with already provide food for the feral cats. SOCKS would be handling the coordination of the spay/neuter services.

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

Yes

**Please explain what is allowed:**

Accepted state registered non-profit organizations who request to harbor stray cats or dogs on private property with a documented and accepted spay/neuter/release program, if approved by the Panhandle Welfare Society or the board of county commissioners and with the written consent of the owner of the private property.

**(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:**

AHOPE for Santa Rosa County, Alaqua Animal Refuge, Everett Animal Welfare Group, Animal Protection League, Escambia County Animal Control,

Feline Friends of Destin, My Safe Place Pet Rescue, Operation Spay Bay, Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Pensacola Humane Society, The Rescued Rescuers, Santa Rosa County Animal Services.

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

By sterilizing felines, fewer cats will reproduce, and subsequently, there are fewer cats disturbing wildlife. Cat overpopulation can also contribute to the extinction of certain animal species. By decreasing the number of felines reproducing in Okaloosa County, the community and its residents can both prevent and protect species from being endangered.

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

The feral cat colonies are already being cared for, and SOCKS would only be handling the sterilization. Community individuals are in charge of feeding and caring for the feral feline colonies.

**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.**

All felines will be ear-tipped, sterilized, and given a 1-year rabies vaccine.

## Objectives

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

By utilizing grant funds for project "Spay it Forward," SOCKS will decrease the number of feral cats populating, improve the quality of life for both humans and cats in Okaloosa County, educate the public on feline sterilization, and be able to offer more, affordable, low-cost spay/neuter services and options to County residents.

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

Since our project will have a direct impact, SOCKS anticipates at least 400 cats will be sterilized and vaccinated as a result of project "Spay it Forward."

## Methods

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

Residents that qualify as low-income and are receiving disability or government assistance (with proof) will have the co-pay fee waived for low-cost sterilization services. Otherwise, Okaloosa residents will pay a \$25 co-pay for the sterilization.

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

SOCKS will utilize its social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tiktok to advertise project "Spay it Forward". Additionally, at all community and chamber events that SOCKS attends, SOCKS will promote project "Spay it Forward" as well as educational resources on feline sterilization for community residents.

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

SOCKS will provide volunteer transportation for local residents. We will use our volunteer network to locate and communicate with the areas of our county where poverty precludes transport to our facility and lack of internet access and to addresses any cultural differences or literacy barriers that need to be overcome. Once we pinpoint those areas, we can ask our volunteers to talk to the residence to determine their needs.

**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.**

When necessary, SOCKS will be partnering with other groups that already provide transportation to low-cost spay/neuter clinics. These groups provide the driver of the vehicles, and SOCKS delivers the cats in carriers, ready to be transported. We sign a release form to the organization giving them the authorization to transport and treat each cat. The animals are placed in sturdy, hard-sided carriers of a size that appropriately accommodates each cat. Each carrier has newspaper lining the bottom to absorb any urine or feces. The newspaper is replaced if soiled in transit. The carriers are strapped into the transport vehicle to avoid shifting during transit. The transport vehicle has air conditioning so that the animals have fresh air at all times. The safety and comfort of the felines is a priority to SOCKS.

## Veterinary Services

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

We have arranged with our one of our participating vets to sterilize two felines in our care every surgery day. SOCKS contacts additional vets as needed.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Crossroads Animal Clinic	601B Eglin Parkway	Fort Walton Beach	FL	32547	850-586-7696	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northside Veterinary Clinic	18 Racetrack Road NE	Fort Walton Beach	FL	32547	850-862-1005	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operation Spay Bay	3520 15th Street	Panama City	FL	32404	850-215-1022	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wiregrass Spay/Neuter Alliance	570 South Foster Street	Dothan	AL	36301-2638	334-671-8111	<input 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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

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

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
<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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</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>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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</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>Feline Leuk/FIV</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>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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<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:**

All feral cats will be ear-tipped, and privately owned cats will have the option to be ear-tipped.

**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
Panhandle Welfare Society	Assist SOCKS with the facilitation, organization, and transportation of felines receiving spay/neuter services.
Wiregrass Spay-Neuter Alliance	Markets and facilitates transport to lower cost clinic in Dothan AL.

**Other Information**

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

Okaloosa County residents are frequently requesting information on where to receive low-cost sterilization services. Currently, there are no local options, and residents must drive a minimum of an hour in either direction to receive low-cost sterilization services.

**Budget**

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 400 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$63.00

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

Rabies vaccine funds are raised by SOCKS through fundraisers and ongoing capital campaigns. These fundraisers and campaigns are advertised through our social media platforms and website, as well as in local newspapers.

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

SOCKS has previously utilized funds from capital campaigns, fundraisers, and a single grant received in 2019 through Okaloosa County to assist residents with low-cost spay/neuter services.

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

33

/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:** 06/01/23

**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.**

SOCKS intends to sustain project "Spay it Forward" through continuously applying for grants, running capital campaigns, hosting fundraising events, utilizing social media platforms, attending local community events, and advertising to the local public.

## 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.**

SOCKS will use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, and TikTok to advertise the license plate online. The license plate will also be on display in both the shelter and the thrift store for residents to purchase. Additionally, at local Chamber events, SOCKS will promote the license plate to the general public.

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