

Grant ID: 2175

Title of Proposal: Striving Toward Lowering Pet Overpopulation

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$6,860.00

Check Payable To: Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County

Website Address: <https://www.awlshelter.org>

Person Submitting Proposal: Mary R Allman-Koernig

Position: Grant Writer

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: Mallman-koernig@awlshelter.org

Agency Head: Kris Steffens

Agency Head Email: finance@awlshelter.org

Organization Business Address: 3519 Drance Street

City: Port Charlotte

State: FL

Zip: 33980

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-625-6720

County: Charlotte

Cell: 303-918-9253

Fax:

Agency Details

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

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/22 **End:** 12/31/22

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,100,608.88

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,076,214.32

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 16 Part Time: 9

Number of Active Volunteers: 568

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 80.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Foundation Directory

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: N/A Year(s) denied/incomplete: N/A

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1836	2019	TNR	Funded
2175	2023	Striving Toward Lowering Pet Overpopulation	Funded

***Type of Organization (check all that apply):**

- Municipal Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter with Municipal Contract
- Public Spay/Neuter Services
- Other Public Veterinary Services
- Private Non-Profit Agency**
 - TNR Group
 - Rescue Group
- Other

List the current board of directors of your nonprofit organization (Not required of governmental agency):

Name	Title
Bev Lowrey	Vice-President
Cherie George	President
Gary Fitzpatrick	Director
Heather Wotutsky	Director
Janie Duke	Director
Jeanne Roland	Director
June Amara	Director
Kimberly Rubino	Director
Kylee McGloin	Director
Mark DeGrove	Director
Nanette Leonard	Director
Rita Kagan	Honorary Member
Sonja Hawker	Director
Tricia Lapointe	Director
Walt Carey	Treasurer

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

1738 cats and 1284 dogs were admitted.

1628 cats and 1224 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

66 cats and 54 dogs were euthanized.

970 cats and 733 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

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 capacity to carry out this program.

The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County (AWL) is a 501(c)3 organization with a solid commitment to saving lives. In 2021 we saved the lives of 3,123 homeless pets. By holding the county's Animal Control contract, we cannot be selective on intake. Yet, we still maintain a 96.24% live release rate. We do not euthanize any animal with a treatable disease. Instead, we diagnose and treat them, educate the public about the animals' unique needs, and prepare them for adoption. Our newly established H.E.L.P. program provides low-cost spay and neuter to those who qualify. Our Wellness Wagon serves the homeless and low-income families in Charlotte County. We extend our reach beyond Charlotte County to assist municipal shelters in producing more significant live outcomes, including Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Highlands, Hillsborough, and Polk Counties. As an approved rescue partner of H.S.U.S. and the A.S.P.C.A., we assist in large-scale natural disasters and cruelty cases. The AWL medical clinic is the only free or reduced-cost animal hospital in Charlotte County. Through serving Veterans and homeless and low-income families through our outreach programs, the AWL sees animals with unique and sometimes severe needs. Our success rate is impressive, losing less than 2% of animals in the clinic's care. The AWL has a full-time licensed veterinarian and two full-time veterinarian technicians.

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

The "Help End Local Pet-overpopulation" program (H.E.L.P.) provides low-cost sterilization for pets of Charlotte County residents. Pet overpopulation contributes to pet homelessness, neglect, and abuse. Our mission with this program is to decrease pet overpopulation in our community. To qualify, the client must reside in Charlotte County and receive assistance from at least one of the county's assistance programs like food stamps, disability, Medicaid, or qualify as a Disabled American Veteran.

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

Cats: 76 Dogs: 252

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Charlotte County and surrounding counties
Total human population in target area:	187,904
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	7.6%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	56941
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	46976

Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	31318
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. The numbers indicated above are within the estimates of the AWL for our service area.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Spaying/neutering a pet is the primary prevention for pet overpopulation impacting the Animal Welfare league and our community. Pet owners cite that the primary reason for not having their pets spayed or neutered is that it is unaffordable.	
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 only other source for spay/neuter services in the Charlotte County target area is private veterinary clinics, whose expenses can be quite high and unreachable to low-income households.	
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"/> Large mixed-breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Objectives

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

We intend to use funds from this grant to accomplish two critical objectives. First, we want to ensure our H.E.L.P. program reaches the most qualified households. We intend to do this by using social media and other forms of advertising to promote this program and to increase its use by 15% within the Charlotte County community. This will be accomplished using resources at the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, like providing promotional material at their twice-weekly food pantry distribution and through the Wellness Wagon. Second, we will increase our outreach to accomplish more T/N/R spays and neuters of community cats through our collaboration with the DeSoto County Animal Shelter and the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. By working with both agencies, we expect our ability to reduce the community cat population by at least 10% over two years. Through other granting sources, the AWL acquired small mammal dens to assist with handling feral cats through capturing and surgery before re-releasing them to their known habitat.

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

This program, as outlined above, will increase the number of sterilization surgeries by a minimum of 15% over our current capacity.

Methods

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

To qualify, the client must reside in Charlotte County and receive assistance from at least one of the county's assistance programs like food stamps, disability, Medicaid, or qualify as a Disabled American Veteran.

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

The program will be advertised through our two collaborating partners- the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition and the DeSoto County Animal Shelter. The Wellness Wagon, which visits the Homeless Coalition twice monthly, will share information with its clients about the availability of our low-cost spay/neuter services. Information will be shared with Food pantry clients at the Homeless Coalition. The food pantry is offered twice every week to more than 1,200 households every week. Facebook and other social media sites of the Animal Welfare League and the DeSoto County Animal Shelter will promote the T/N/R program so that neighborhood groups can reach out about community cat colonies.

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

The Animal Welfare League (AWL) uses its transport van to assist clients who have no transportation options. Charlotte County provides translation services on an as-needed basis.

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 AWL's transport van is a standard cargo van equipped with straps to hold crates and carriers in place. Intake personnel is trained and insured to operate the van. All staff at the AWL go through animal behavior training. When transporting feral cats back to their habitat, staff use a small mammal den designed to reduce human handling.

Veterinary Services

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

The AWL's in-house Veterinarian and Veterinary Technicians are on-board to meet the goals proposed in this grant application.

Are they: In-House Veterinarian Outside Clinic Combination

Participating veterinary practices if surgeries will not be performed in-house:

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	\$20.00	\$10.53	\$30.53
Range for Female Cats	\$20.00	\$19.53	\$39.53
Range for Male Dogs	\$20.00	\$3.80	\$23.80

Range for Female Dogs

\$20.00

\$34.79

\$54.79

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** Required Optional Not Available No Yes**Rabies Vaccination if Due** Required Optional Not Available No Yes**Other Vaccination if Due** Required Optional Not Available No Yes**Pain Medication** Required Optional Not Available No 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 mandatory pain medication and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

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

The required procedures are included in the low-cost fee paid by the client and through partial reimbursement by Charlotte County.

Is this a voucher program? No

If so, how will you assure utilization of 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 number redeemed for spay/neuter surgeries?

Community Collaboration

Florida Animal Friend values community/inter-agency collaboration. 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
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition	The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition is highly involved by providing space for the Wellness Wagon twice monthly, providing information to food pantry recipients, and promoting their collaboration on Facebook and other social media platforms.
DeSoto County Animal Shelter	The DeSoto County Animal Shelter is highly involved in assisting with T/N/R by helping with the trapping and safe return of community cats. The DeSoto Animal Shelter will use Facebook to promote the T/N/R project to community members.

Other Information

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

The collaborations with the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition and the DeSoto County Animal Shelter illustrate AWL's ability to meet and exceed the goals of this grant request. Both collaborations are supported by grant awards supporting their cooperation with the AWL. The staff and Board of Directors at the AWL are committed to the welfare of all animals within the Charlotte County community and region.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 88 **Dogs:** 290

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$6,860.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$19.00

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

Vaccines and microchipping are funded through separate grant awards to the Animal Welfare League.

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

Part of the Animal Welfare League's contract with Charlotte County pays for some of the costs of spaying/neutering low-income county residents. Also, some of the expenses associated with this project are funded through other grant awards supporting community collaborations.

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

21%

Timeline

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: 08/01/23/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/24

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 Animal Welfare League fully expects to fund this project in the future through additional grant awards and the continued support of Charlotte County.

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 Animal Welfare League intends to use press releases, Facebook, and other social media platforms to promote this grant award and to promote the sale of Animal Friend license plates.

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

Unknown