

Grant ID: 2128

Title of Proposal: Tri-county Cat Project

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$15,000.00

Check Payable To: Feline Friends of Southwest Florida

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Feline Friends of Southwest Florida

Website Address: www.felinefriendsswfl.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Caroline Resnick

Position: co-founder and director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: caroline@felinefriendsswfl.org

Agency Head: Cathy Worster

Agency Head Email: cathy@felinefriendsswfl.org

Organization Business Address: PO Box 17998

City: Sarasota

State: Florida

Zip: 34276

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-330-7346

County: Sarasota

Cell: 973-216-8018

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 11/28/2018

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$77,916.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$94,098.00

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 35

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 217.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We learned of Florida Animal Friend from the animal welfare community as well as personally having Florida Animal Friend license plates on registered vehicles.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2021 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2003	2021	Operation Have A Heart	Funded
2128	2023	Tri-county Cat Project	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
Caroline Resnick	Director
Cathy Worster	President
Larry Worster	Vice-President/Secretary
Michelle Pariseau	Treasurer
Nancy Colby	Director

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, transferred, or other live outcome.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

675 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

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.

Feline Friends of Southwest Florida specializes in TNR services for the public. Cats are humanely trapped and brought to participating spay/neuter clinics as well as to veterinarians in private practice. There are many component parts in order to have a successful TNR program. We have developed and put programs into place which maximizes our efforts and offers a safety-net for vulnerable cats and kittens by way of foster care and eventual adoption through local shelter partners. There are times when intervention is needed to get a cat off the street and into adoption. We have been able to successfully address those occasional issues. Also, no kittens are left behind in a colony that are young enough to be adopted into homes. It is our practice to intake the nursing female in addition to her kittens regardless of her temperament (feral or friendly). We allow feral females to nurse their kittens while we keep the kittens socialized to humans until they are of appropriate age to go into an adoption program. A nursing female in our possession who has weaned her kittens in our adoption program will be spayed and returned to her colony and caregiver. Another facet of care that we have implemented is treating sick or injured outdoor cats that need medical care in addition to spay or neuter. These cats are otherwise healthy, and a medical intervention is all they need to go back to being a healthy cat. For routine spay/neuter surgeries, cats are returned to field the following day after surgery to the same location in which they were trapped. Post TNVR education is key for long-term success. We encourage caregivers to stay in contact with us, offering suggestions and making recommendations on how to keep their cat colony healthy. We let them know we are available to help medically if cats need assistance later on. Cathy Worster, Caroline Resnick, and Nancy Colby are the founders of Feline Friends of SWFL. Cathy Worster has been involved in TNR for 9 years and cared for a colony of cats in New Jersey. Cathy is currently responsible for the daily management and interactions with volunteer trappers, coordinating surgery dates with spay/neuter clinics and veterinary offices. Caroline Resnick has been practicing TNVR for over 20 years. Prior to forming Feline Friends, she served on the board of the Animal Rescue Coalition and was the volunteer coordinator of their feral cat program which provided free TNVR services to over 1,500 outdoor cats annually. Caroline also served on Cat Depot's Advisory Board. Her area of specialty is coordination and logistics of mass trapping efforts. She is also in charge of grant writing and fundraising efforts. Nancy Colby has been involved in animal welfare for over 20 years and strongly supports TNVR efforts. She is active with Southeastern Guide Dogs, fostering puppies that ultimately become guide dogs. Nancy started a program with Feline Friends called 'I'm Special,' educating the public on the many rewards of adopting and caring for special needs cats. Nancy served on the advisory board of EARS Animal Sanctuary, and Cat Depot. Our trappers are seasoned and experienced professionals who volunteer their time and have been trained through our program on how to safely trap cats. Each trapper has approximately 10 or more years of TNVR experience. Cathy Worster and Caroline Resnick, co-founders of Feline Friends will be the responsible party who will carry out the grant's terms and conditions. Cathy and Caroline will also be responsible for providing all necessary paperwork at the completion of the grant cycle.

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

Feline Friends provides free TNVR services for the community. To qualify, there must be a caregiver to provide care for the cats and the cats must be able to be returned back to their location after surgery. When cats or kittens are adoptable, we make arrangements to get them into foster and eventual adoption. We collaborate with Sarasota County Animal Services when there are return to field projects.

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

Cats: 675 **Dogs:** 1

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	DeSoto County; Charlotte County; Sarasota County. (See Methods criteria section for chosen targeted boundaries)
Total human population in target area:	227,000
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	46.05
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	68788
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	56750

Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	37834
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. n/a	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Free-roaming (feral/stray/community) cats and abandoned pets are the greatest source of cat overpopulation in the target areas due to Hurricane Ian. There are also populations of free-roaming personal pets that have not been spayed/neutered and are contributing to the cat overpopulation due to abandonment caused by families losing their homes.	
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? Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) is a Sarasota-based nonprofit that provides spay/neuter services for owned cats and dogs in Arcadia, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties at least once a month. Their transport program picks up and brings owned pets to their Sarasota surgery center and returns them later in the day at a designated depot for pickup. ARC also offers a once a month feral cat day for the public. TNVR services are nonexistent in DeSoto and Charlotte counties and the need is great. Feline Friends knows of no affordable spay/neuter options in those areas which have been hard hit by Hurricane Ian. Feline Friends of Southwest Florida is currently the only known TNVR group that provides boots on the ground spay/neuter services for feral, and free-roaming cats in DeSoto, south Sarasota county, and Charlotte county. There is a need to provide consistent spay/neuter services for feral and free-roaming cats as the request for this type of service is high in the chosen targeted areas. Our goal with this grant funding is to be able to have a further reach into these under-served areas where there is a lack of services and try to stabilize locations that are a hotbed for uncontrolled breeding due to the devastating impact caused by Hurricane Ian.	
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 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)?

Our goal is to immediately stop continual breeding cycles and to reduce the suffering of kittens being born outdoors. Adoptable kittens will be removed from the location, automatically decreasing the number of cats in a colony. The decrease in numbers is measurable immediately upon removal of kittens. Once remaining cats are spayed and neutered, there is also an immediate and permanent halt to breeding which stops numbers from increasing. Those numbers can be measured immediately post surgery. Attrition will occur over time and numbers will decrease, and eventually the colony ceases to exist. Those numbers can be measured yearly.

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

The goal is to provide an additional 272 spay/neuter surgeries to reach more cats that would otherwise not be sterilized.

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

The boundaries for the proposed grant encompass south Sarasota County, Charlotte County, and DeSoto County. More specifically, incorporated and unincorporated towns, including but not limited to Englewood, Placida, Rotunda West, Port Charlotte, North Port, Punta Gorda, Burnt Store, Cleveland, Venice, Osprey, Nokomis extending east to Fort Ogden, Arcadia, and adjacent rural townships. The above-mentioned areas took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian in September of 2022 sustaining significant damage. The coastal communities of Englewood, Placida, Rotunda West, and Venice were in the eye wall of the hurricane having to endure sustained winds exceeding 125 mph for more than 8 hours resulting in catastrophic damage to housing structures and area businesses. The inland areas of North Port, Port Charlotte, and Arcadia sustained significant damage from flooding as the Peace River rose over 25 feet in the days following Hurricane Ian. Emergency evacuation orders that were put into place caused many families to evacuate leaving pets behind. Many single-family homes and mobile home parks were destroyed displacing families who have not returned to the area. There are many unaltered cats in the area and there are no TNVR programs or affordable spay/neuter programs in DeSoto or Charlotte counties to stop the uncontrolled breeding. Any feral or free-roaming outdoor cat populations in the targeted area are eligible for this program.

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

Feline Friends of Southwest Florida will utilize several media venues to advertise the availability of our services and FAF grant funding. We will advertise on our website and post on social media. We will also advertise in local publications, including the Charlotte Sun which has an Arcadia edition and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

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

We have the ability to use software from our iPhone that can translate Spanish and English which enables use to handle any barriers we encounter. We also have Spanish fliers that explain the TNVR process.

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 take safe transport very seriously, especially since we live in a tropical climate with heat indexes in excess of 100 degrees during the summer months. Vehicles used by our volunteers are SUVs with indoor climate-control. Pickup trucks are allowed ONLY if cats are transported inside the climate-controlled cabin. We do not under any circumstances allow cats to ride in the back of an open pickup truck.

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

The Humane Society of Sarasota County will be the lead veterinarian for this project. They currently handle our feral cat surgeries. Humane Society of Sarasota County has the capability and capacity to increase their high-quality surgery volume for this grant and can do upwards of 120 surgeries a month. We also have veterinarians in private practice willing to assist with sick and injured cats and spay/neuter backup.

Are they: In-House Veterinarian Outside Clinic Combination

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

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Bay Road Animal Hospital	1712 Bay Road	Sarasota	Florida	34239	941-366-2275	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gulf Gate Animal Hospital	2031 Bispham Road	Sarasota	Florida	34231	941-922-3917	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humane Society of Sarasota County	2331 15th Street	Sarasota	Florida	34237	941-955-4131	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic	8467 S Tamiami Trail	Sarasota	Florida	34238	941-925-7000	<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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<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?

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 cost to spay or neuter a feral cat is \$55 per male and \$55 per female sterilization. Built into this cost includes staffing, disposable surgical supplies, pain medications, anesthesia, and dissolvable gut sutures. In addition to these services, the cats also receive Rabies and FVRCP vaccinations and ancillary medication to speed up the healing process which includes Revolt and praziquantal by injection to knock down the parasite burden. The costs for Rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines and additional ancillary products have been removed from the proposal and are not part of FAF grant. The cost of \$15.00 per cat will be paid for out of Feline Friends' general funds to cover these additional items.

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
Bay Road Animal Hospital	Treatment for sick/injured cats or kittens. Secondary spay/neuter services. Humane euthanasia of sick cats.
Belspur Oaks Crematory	Cremation services for deceased cats.
Cat Depot	Adoption partner for adoptable cats and kittens.
Charlotte County Animal Control	Approved to pull cats out of stray holding area.
Charlotte Sun Newspaper	Community outreach.
DeSoto County Animal Services	Approved to pull cats out of stray holding area.
EARS	Adoption partner for adoptable cats and kittens.
Gulf Gate Animal Hospital	Treatment for sick/injured cats or kittens. Secondary spay/neuter services. Humane euthanasia of sick cats.

Name	Level of Involvement
Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch	Adoption partner for adoptable cats and kittens.
Humane Society of Sarasota County	Adoption partner for adoptable cats and kittens.
Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic	Treatment of sick/injured feral cats or kittens. Secondary spay/neuter services. Humane euthanasia of sick cats.
Sarasota County Animal Services	Approved to pull cats out of stray holding area.
Sarasota Pet Crematory	Cremation services for deceased cats.
Sarasota-Herald Tribune	Community outreach.

Other Information

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

Our goal is to immediately stop continual breeding cycles and to reduce the suffering of kittens being born outdoors. Adoptable kittens will be removed from the location, automatically decreasing the number of cats in a colony. The decrease in numbers is measurable immediately upon removal of kittens. Once remaining cats are spayed and neutered, there is also an immediate and permanent halt to breeding which stops numbers from increasing. Those numbers can be measured immediately post surgery. Attrition will occur over time and numbers will decrease, and eventually the colony ceases to exist and those numbers can be measured yearly.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 272 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$56.00

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

There is no cost to performing basic examinations and no cost for ear tipping. Both of these services are performed by veterinarians. Rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines, and parasite control are given to every cat. The total cost of \$15.00 per cat is not part of the grant and will be paid for out of Feline Friends' general funds. Optional microchipping and FeLV/FIV tests will be paid for by Feline Friends or caregiver. In the event an FeLV/FIV test or bloodwork is recommended by a veterinarian, Feline Friends will absorb the cost and will be paid for by Feline Friends' general funds.

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

A fundraising effort is planned this spring to raise spay/neuter funds for kittens. We have a donor who will match the total raised by the public. This will be a collaborative event with the Venice Cat Coalition, a local TNVR nonprofit group. Money raised will go towards spay/neuter of outdoor kittens that are adoptable and originally part of an outdoor cat colony and won't be part of the FAF grant funding. Fundraising efforts for 2023/24 are as follows: • Community Foundation Giving Challenge * Giving Tuesday • Year-end Holiday Fundraising Drive • Go Fund Me campaigns for selected cats or kittens needing a specialized surgery in order to

be adoptable • Needed kitten supplies on Amazon Wish List • Community Cat Food Fundraising Drives to help caregivers needing additional support from time to time

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

77%

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: 08/15/23/ **Projected end date:** 08/14/24

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.**

Future funding of our TNR program will be accomplished with continued individual donations and fundraising efforts. We have a growing social media following and ask for their financial support especially during fundraising campaigns. We have also cultivated a year-end mailing fundraising drive which lists our accomplishments for the year. We anticipate growth in this fundraiser as our donor base continues to grow yearly. We currently have two generous benefactors who will match public donations dollar for dollar during these fundraising campaigns, generating excitement in donors and doubling the impact of our fundraising efforts. We manage a small but productive coin bank program which are placed at strategic high yield locations. We also have a monthly giving program.

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 informed our volunteers that we have applied for the Florida Animal Friend grant. We have recommended that they all purchase an FAF license plate regardless of whether we get the grant for this grant cycle because this grant funding is a consistent lifeline to animals all over our state. Also, once we have been approved for the grant, we will write a press release informing the public of our project, letting them know it has been made possible through the Florida Animal Friend license plate funding. We will feature the Florida Animal Friend logo on our website and post on social media. We post spay/neuter projects regularly on our facebook and other social media outlets keeping the public informed on what we are doing. We will inform the public of our success with FAF projects in particular and will encourage the public to purchase Florida Animal Friend license plates so projects like ours can continue to be funded.

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

7