

Grant ID: 2105

**Title of Proposal:** TNR & Access to Veterinary Care

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

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

**Check Payable To:** Nassau Humane Society Inc.

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Nassau Humane Society

**Website Address:** www.nassauhumane.org

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Stephanie Stroud

**Position:** Executive Director

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** smiller@nassauhumane.org

**Agency Head:** Beth Hughes

**Agency Head Email:** erh1356@icloud.com

**Organization Business Address:** 639 Airport Rd.

**City:** Fernandina Beach

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 32034

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 904-321-1647

**County:** Nassau

**Cell:**

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 01/01/1989

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/21 **End:** 09/30/22

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$899,100.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,169,774.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 16 Part Time: 3

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 100

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 93.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** FAF license plate program

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: unknown Year(s) denied/incomplete: unknown

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
107	2009	Nassau Humane Society Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Outreach	Denied
237	2011	Spay/Neuter Outreach	Denied
1493	2015	Spay Fernandina	Funded
1626	2006		Denied (not completed)
1627	2007		Funded
1702	2017	Spay/Neuter Nassau	Funded
2105	2023	TNR & Access to Veterinary Care	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
Becky Stafford	Director
Ed Hardee	Secretary
Elizabeth Hughes	President
Janet Plosser	Director
John Landregan	Director
Kathleen Smeraglinolo	Vice President
Trent Maddox	Treasurer

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**469 cats and 862 dogs were admitted.**

**457 cats and 657 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**9 cats and 7 dogs were euthanized.**

**283 cats and 362 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.**

Nassau Humane Society (NHS) intakes animals from multiple sources, then verifies they are properly prepared for adoption by ensuring every animal is spayed/neutered, microchipped, up to date on all necessary vaccinations and prevention, and any other medical needs an animal may have. We intake animals from our community through our Animal Control program, contracted through the City of Fernandina Beach. In addition to these intakes, when we have the resources and capacity, we will also take owner surrenders from outside of our Fernandina Beach jurisdiction. These animals could come to NHS as strays, owner surrenders, law enforcement seizures, or neglect/abuse cases. We also work to alleviate pressure from kill-shelters in Florida and Georgia by taking transports of animals who are slotted for euthanasia. Our primary focus is to rescue and adopt as many animals as possible, but we also provide services such as a community food bank, lost and found, Animal Control enforcement, and TNR if a cat comes to us via Animal Control that is considered feral and not adoptable. Currently, our shelter does not provide spay/neuter or any sort of medical services for owned animals. If awarded funding from FAF, NHS will be in a position where we can offer TNR and free spay/neuter services to those in our community who cannot afford these services elsewhere. We would be able to carry out these services by two different means: First, NHS has a relationship with a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Duval County called First Coast No More Homeless Pets. We are automatically allotted 20 spay/neuter slots per week, so any leftover spaces we have can be utilized to send TNR cases. Second, we have a relationship with a local Veterinarian, Dr. Carlos Aguiar, who has a mobile spay/neuter and wellness clinic. Not only does this give us the ability to perform exams and surgeries on site, but it also allows us the ability to go out into parts of our community that are gravely underserved and have no option for affordable services for their pets. If awarded funding, this program will be overseen by Executive Director, Stephanie Stroud, Shelter Director, Mandy Holden, and our contract Veterinarian, Dr. Carlos Aguiar. Dr. Aguiar has the support of other local Veterinarians who are eager to provide services to our community.

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

NHS has a very basic TNR program, funded by our contract with the City of Fernandina Beach. The City Limits of Fernandina Beach, where we have Animal Control jurisdiction, comprises of less than 15 square miles. Also within the City Limits is an organization with a strong TNR program called Cats Angels. With this said, our TNR cases are very low.?

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

**Cats:** 13 **Dogs:** 0

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):</b>	Nassau County, Florida: Yulee/Fernandina (32034, 32097), Callahan (32011), Hilliard (32046), and Bryceville (32041)
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	80,825
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	8
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	24493

<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	20207
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	13471
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1,407
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	787
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	25
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	19
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
Yes – we do believe our target area animal population is different than what’s stated above. Nassau County is rapidly growing, with countless new neighborhoods, including a new development region called Wildlight. Between 2020 and 2021, Nassau County saw 4.21% growth, making Nassau the fourth fastest growing county in Florida by percentage growth. By 2035, it is predicted that Nassau County will have grown by 47.5% (via Nassau County Board of Commissioners – 2022 Growth Trends Report).?	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
There are numerous reasons why we believe dog and cat overpopulation is prevalent in these areas, but the primary reason is the lack of affordable veterinary care in Nassau. To go to a nearby clinic, clients are facing spay/neuter fees well exceeding \$500 per animal. The closest affordable spay/neuter and wellness clinic in our region is simply too far away from our target population, as most lack appropriate transportation or access to transportation. In addition to this, there is a lack of education about spay/neuter in our target population communities. All but one animal rescue in Nassau is located in the East Nassau region, and the majority of our target population is in West Nassau. Residents in this area simply don’t know about or have proper access to spay/neuter services.???	
<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>	
Cats Angels, SPCA is the primary non-profit organization who offers TNR services throughout the entire county. Nassau County Animal Services and Nassau Humane Society will TNR in their respective jurisdictions, however this service isn’t generally offered outright to the community due to lack of funds and resources. Cats Angels is limited on the number of cats that they can TNR each week, as they are allotted a fixed number of slots at the closest affordable clinic, First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville. Nassau County currently does not have an affordable clinic, only a small handful of private clinics that do not have the capacity to offer reduced service fees or programs for TNR. In addition to this, with the rapid population growth we are experiencing in our county, the few veterinarian offices we do have are either not taking new patients or having to schedule appointments far out from when the services are actually needed.?	
<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>Large mixed-breed dogs</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	

## Objectives

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

Our goal is to spay and neuter at least 300 cats in our county. As shelters across the nation are experiencing a capacity crisis, doing everything possible to keep animals out of shelters is critical. Historically, people have been taught if you find an animal, to immediately bring them to the shelter. This is simply not realistic, given that adoptions are significantly down, and owner surrenders and stray intakes are at an all-time high, so educating the public about TNR and why it’s ok for cats to free roam in our community is

more important than ever. Our aim is to significantly cut down on the outdoor cat population by preventing unwanted litters to aid in this effort.? Nassau County is currently a no-kill shelter community, and we want to keep it that way. Additionally, getting ahead of the problem now is crucial as our county population is growing significantly, and is projected to continue to do so over the next several years.??

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

Last year, we performed only 13 TNR surgeries. If awarded the funds to support our TNR program, we will have the ability to spay and neuter at the very least, 300 cats. The same pricing would be offered to community members who have unaltered animals and no access to affordable spay/neuter services.??

## Methods

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

Eligibility criteria for our proposed program will be very straightforward. Healthy community cats eligible for TNR will be altered on a first come, first served basis in our target communities (Hilliard, Callahan, Bryceville, Yulee, and the areas of Fernandina Beach that are outside of our current jurisdiction: the City Limits). These are rural communities that are known to have several cat colonies, as well as residents that do not have access to affordable veterinary care, including spay/neuter surgeries. These communities are heavily comprised of individuals who make less than \$30,000 a year. When a single spay or neuter surgery can cost well over \$500, these fees are not achievable for most residents in these communities. Spay/neuter services will also be offered to owned pets on a first come, first served basis.??

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

We will advertise across a broad spectrum of platforms, including our social media pages, on specific Facebook groups in our target communities, our website, local newspapers, community events, and volunteers will take and post flyers in our target communities where those who are likely to have pets or feed cat colonies frequent.??

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

NHS will make many efforts to break barriers typically associated with getting feral cats or owned cats in rural areas spayed and neutered. First, we will transport our contracted veterinarians' mobile spay/neuter clinic to our target communities. If needed, we have a second vehicle to transport TNRs or owned animals to our mobile unit or First Coast No More Homeless Pets. We can also provide cat traps and our community food bank. We will have staff available to aid clients in filling out paperwork, if necessary, which we will ensure is basic and straightforward. We also have a Spanish speaking employee who can help with language barriers.??

**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 goal is to have little to no need for pet transportation. Having the ability to drive to our target communities with Dr. Carlos Aguiar's Heal Mobile allows NHS to perform spay/neuter surgeries in the communities that need it the most. For the animals that we transport to First Coast No More Homeless Pets for surgery, we have our own vehicle and staff to carry out the task. Clients will be given a liability release form to sign and the staff transporting animals are trained and insured to transport animals. Our staff are also trained in handling animals pre- and post-surgery in the safest ways possible. NHS has a separate space in our medical department to temporarily house animals comfortably until they are transported back to their owners.??

## Veterinary Services

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

Nassau Humane Society works with Dr. Carlos Aguiar to carry out services with the use of his 'Heal Mobile' mobile spay/neuter unit.

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
First Coast No More Homeless Pets	6817 Norwood Ave.	Jacksonville	Florida	32208	904-425-0005	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heal Mobile	2220 County Road 210 W Ste 108	Jacksonville	Florida	32259	904-345-0062	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Fee Range**

What is the fee range to be paid for spay and neuter and what is the distribution to be paid by the client vs. the grant program? **Keep in mind that Florida Animal Friend grant funds may only be used for costs directly associated with sterilization surgery (including anesthesia and pain control, which is required) and not for other items such as testing, licensing, and capital purchases. However, \$2 per animal of grant funds can be used for rabies vaccination.**

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>

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 <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
<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 <input type="text" value="\$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 <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b> <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
<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 <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
<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 mandatory pain medication and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.**

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

Surgeries are covered by NHS, any other procedure will require a minimal fee to the client. If client is unable to pay for required procedures, NHS will cover the fee.

**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
Cats Angels	Has extensive TNR program and provides help with spay/neuter and colony supervision.
Nassau County Animal Services	Helps our county with cat trapping and transports animals to local clinics.

## Other Information

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

It is well known in our community that there are numerous cat colonies and the need for TNR all over, especially in the more rural areas of our county. This is something that both Nassau County Animal Services, our counties municipal animal welfare organization, and Cats Angels, a local organization that focuses heavily on TNR and community cat education, can attest to. If granted funds for our proposed program, we will be able to travel to communities with the most need (Callahan, Hilliard, Bryceville, Yulee, Fernandina Beach outside of the City Limits) due to lack of affordable care, education, and transportation, to address their spay/neuter needs. We already have a mobile spay/neuter vehicle reserved and staffed to carry out our program. If we need to utilize First Coast No More Homeless Pets for spay/neuter needs, we have trained staff who carry out animal transport to this facility weekly, who will be able to safely facilitate transporting TNR cases to and from the facility.??

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 300 **Dogs:** 100

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$60.00

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

Microchipping would come at an extra expense which would be the owners responsibility. Rabies vaccinations will be offered at NHS's expense.

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

NHS will continue to conduct fundraising efforts to cover medical expenses for the animals in our care and animals in our community who need it the most. We also have a very successful thrift store that is continually expanding. Profits from our stores directly support NHS.?

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

95

## 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:** 09/01/23/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/24

## 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.**

NHS holds an annual fundraiser called Pasta 4 Paws that draws a huge crowd. Our event gains more traction and brings in more funds every year. In addition to this, we are working on creating a second annual fundraiser, and we have our very successful thrift stores, Second Chance and The Closet, that have expanded operations due to its continual success. These stores bring in a hefty amount of revenue every month that directly supports NHS. NHS puts our two appeals annually requesting financial support from our community and we are continually holding smaller scale fundraisers to support specific projects and general operations.??

## Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

**\*Applicants selected for funding are expected to publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program and promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate via press releases, newsletters, website links, social media, etc. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate. Grantees are required to submit documentation of promotional endeavors with their final report.**

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**If Nassau Humane Society is selected to receive funding from the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate program, we would publicize the grant by featuring information on our social media platforms and our website, kept up by our dedicated Social Media and Marketing Manager. We would also share the story with our local news outlets that have always shown massive support to NHS, including the Yulee News, The News-Leader, and our local news stations.**

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

**15**