

Grant ID: 2163

Title of Proposal: PAL for Pitties (Prevent a Litter) Voucher Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Polk County Bully Project

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Polk County Bully Project

Website Address: www.polkcountybullyproject.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Shannon Medina

Position: Co-Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: polkcountybullyproject@gmail.com

Agency Head: Shannon Medina

Agency Head Email: polkcountybullyproject@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 5840 Brannen Rd W

City: Lakeland

State: FL

Zip: 33813

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 305-720-8238

County: Polk

Cell: 305-720-8238

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/11/2019

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$231,000.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$23,100.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 8 Part Time: 14

Number of Active Volunteers: 30

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 120.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? applied last year

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2022

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2085	2022	Polk Bully Project	Denied
2163	2023	PAL for Pitties (Prevent a Litter) Voucher Program	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
Alice Skipper	Treasurer
Angie Lorio	Vice President
Shannon Medina	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 644 dogs were admitted.

0 cats and 525 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

0 cats and 4 dogs were euthanized.

0 cats and 525 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.

We have built a very strong partnership with our animal control and realize the need to have a voucher program offered to help reduce the amount of large breed dogs coming into animal control. A total of 619 dogs were saved from Polk County Animal Control in 2022. Out of 38 Rescue Organizations total that pulled dogs, Only 6 organizations pulled more than 10. We were the only organization to pull over 100. We pulled almost 1/2 the dogs saved last year, over 208 more dogs than any other organization. We pulled 273 dogs. How does this relate to a spay and neuter voucher program? We built our programs to save this number of dogs from the ground up and have the connections with our animal control to have the largest impact possible getting the word out. We greatly need to reduce the number of large Bully breed dogs going into animal control to reduce the euthanasia rates in turn.

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

We do not

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

Cats: Dogs:

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Polk County
Total human population in target area:	240,879
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	16%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	72994
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	60220
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	40147
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	7455
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	5152
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2636
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	897

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

We do believe that this number is representative of the number dogs in the county.

Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:

The primary issue that Polk County faces is that the limited number of low-cost options for pet sterilization which results in pet-overpopulation. Polk County does not have any voucher programs available and only has one low-cost spay/neuter options at TLC PetSnip, Inc.SPCA Florida also has a clinic but the costs are much higher.

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?

There are 43 veterinary clinics in Polk County and only one of those is an HQHV practice. PCBP is happy to work with veterinarians in the county and veterinary services are currently at a higher cost than the community is able to afford.

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:

Pets in low-income families **Large mixed-breed dogs** **Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats** **Other**

Objectives

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

We call this voucher program PAL for Pitties, (Prevent A Litter). We hope to start a voucher program to reduce the over population that is happening in our county with pit bulls and bully breeds. We will offer these vouchers to low income applicants. Bully Breeds have large litters historically and are the ones least likely to be adopted when they make their way to the county shelter. Those dogs designated pit bulls are not adopted out in Polk County. A primary goal is to provide public assistance for these owners that want to sterilize their dogs but are financially unable to do so. The additional goal of this funding is to decrease the number of at-risk dogs from entering the shelter.

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

There currently is no voucher program for the county of Polk. We have neutered and spayed over 500 dogs with TLC Petsnip over the past few years. We hope to offer this voucher program to the community to increase the spay and neuter of large breed dogs.

Methods

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

The income-based criteria will be based on if the owner of the dog is on any type of government assistance.

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

Polk County Bully Project will advertise this program on the website, flyers (English and Spanish), social media, press releases, and free-standing advertisements at the shelter. The target audience will be reached through these avenues as well as through events and word of mouth.

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

Barriers that may need to be addressed are transportation, illiteracy, and culture will be done through volunteers. For example, PCBP owns a transportation van that can be utilized in certain situations to help make it to an appointment. The issues of illiteracy and cultural barriers will be addressed individually based on the client's needs. We can read and verbally explain the program to an applicant. An example of a cultural hurdle seen regularly in Polk County is the language barrier. Many low-income families are Spanish-speaking. For this issue, PCBP will solicit the assistance of Spanish-speaking staff and volunteers to help break that language barrier.

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 rescue will assist with transportation needs but encourage the client to seek other transportation assistance. For example, Polk County Bully project has a van that has been

fitted with cages that can hold multiple large dogs safely and securely. Should a client need transportation assistance, a liability form will be filled out and signed, showing that the rescue is not liable for any transportation-related issues. The clients will also be required to complete a surgical consent form for the facility to complete the procedure.

Veterinary Services

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

Polk County Bully project works with several local veterinarians and will be utilizing them but primarily using TLC PetSnip for sterilization. Polk County Bully Project has a long standing relationship with TLC PetSnip and currently uses them for sterilization procedures. We have completed over 500 surgeries with TLC Pet Snip. They have a new surgery center with expanded availability so most appointments can be made within 30 days. We also have standing spots on every Monday. TLC PetSnip has agreed to assist with sterilization of pit-bulls and pit-bull mixes under this program.

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
TLC petsnip	1701 E Gary Rd	Lakeland	FL	33801	863-686-7647	<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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>

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	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<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="\$15.00"/>
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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:

Parasite Medication cost will range on weight the amount listed is an average.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

If so, how will you assure utilization of the program?

We will be creating a separate website for registration and inquiry questions. Vouchers are provided to qualifying residents who request them on a first come, first served basis each month. Those who do not satisfy their voucher within the required timeframe will lose the service and have to reapply should they still be in need.

For your voucher program, how have you determined the capacity of the veterinarians listed above to handle the projected capacity?

We have had several discussions with the Executive Director and Medical Manager. They just opened an expanded surgery center in August of 2022 and can handle the additional surgeries. They have preformed over 500 surgeries for us in the past.

Will you have the ability to report the number of vouchers issued and the number redeemed for spay/neuter surgeries?

Documentation from TLC Petsnip will include redeemed vouchers and invoices for each completed surgery. We keeps a roster of all vouchers issued and match documentation from the clinic against the total number of S/N surgeries performed under the grant.

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
Polk County Animal Control	As a referral source for people picking up impounded animals to get them altered.

Name	Level of Involvement
Polk No Kill Coalition	Referral source to help alter bully breeds need and to stop the back yard breeding.

Other Information

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

We will set up an independent website link to apply for the grant. We have a medical coordinator that works closely with TLC PetSnip. We have access to the back end portal to schedule all our own surgeries and request service so that aspect of adding in appointments for vouchers will be seamless. We already have a structured system in place. We also have an account set up for automatic payment of invoices. Surgeries under this program can have automatic invoices generated to show compliance for this grant. We previously set up a free spay and neuter day with this organization backed by the Stand Up for Pits Foundation for Grant payment so we have a good idea on how to run this and the advertising portion of filling the vouchers.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 0 **Dogs:** 454

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$55.00

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

We have microchipping at a cost of \$6 per chip with FI Nano chips, rabies vaccine is \$15 and we will paying the licensing fee out of donations towards this program. On a case-by-case basis, we may cover the co-pay and/or rabies vaccination costs so the cost to the voucher holder is zero.

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

We have met with all of our county commissioners about the need for a voucher program in the county and presented at commission meetings. They are all in agreement and we feel like by getting this grant award we can double the impact and ask for an additional \$50,000 from the county and to cover a program for cats as well, last year they had agreed on a need to be at \$125,000 but as it all came out of the sheriff budget it was tabled to the next year. We feel extremely confident to get a match from the county of \$25,000 at the least. We will move forward with this program regardless. We will be actively applying for other grants that are offered for spay and neuter of dogs and cats and TNR programs to expand the reach. We will increase our on-line fundraising efforts as wel.

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

65

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: 06/01/23/ **Projected end date:** 06/01/24

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.**

We hope to move forward with this grant award to keep it going for the next years with fundraising specifically for this program as well as demonstrating the need in this county and to have the county step forward to expand and fund this program and add in cats. The other counties that touch us have voucher programs and the truth is in the statistics of the amount of animals that end up being euthanized in the local shelter. We will be actively applying for other grants that are offered for spay and neuter of dogs and cats or county currently does not recognize TNR.. We will increase our on-line fundraising efforts.

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 will be doing several promotional campaigns on social media and at our events. We do events every week with multiple events in any given week. We have 25k followers and a very active base. Animal control has also agreed to share this program as well and TLC Petsnip has also agreed to share and push this program. The success of this program is so critical to our agenda of change in this county .

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

Unknown