

Grant ID: 2136

Title of Proposal: Community Cats and Beyond

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$15,000.00

Check Payable To: Community Cats of Bonita Springs

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Community Cats of Bonita Springs

Website Address: www.communitycatsofbonitasprings.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Katja Lavallee

Position: Chairperson

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: klavallee26@gmail.com

Agency Head: Angela Gipson

Agency Head Email: bonitakittyfixers@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 10890 Leitner Creek Drive Unit 147

City: Bonita Springs

State: Florida

Zip: Florida

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 810-630-9097

County: USA

Cell: 603-362-3334

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/20/2017

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/23 **End:** 12/31/23

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$26,414.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$26,414.00

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 42

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 474.00

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

From promotional materials from a previous grant recipient

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2136	2023	Community Cats and Beyond	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
Angela Gipson	Executive Director
David Alpert	Communications Manager
Jasmine Rivera	Vice President
Katja Lavallee	TNR Coordinator/Secretary
Malinda Wells	Foster Coordinator

Applicant Qualifications**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:****708 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.****262 cats and 0 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.****4 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.****442 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.

Community Cats of Bonita Springs volunteers work tirelessly in all parts of the community wherever there are homeless street cats and there is always a need. Colonies of cats are scattered all over in shopping malls, trailer parks, parking lots, vacant lots, gated communities, downtown, and near the beach. Our group receives calls from residents about stray cats and the feeding volunteers also find them when they show up in feeding areas. Cats are very often abandoned when people move away or elderly people pass away and someone puts them outside. Many cats are left outside unfixed by owners and end up with numerous litters of kittens that multiply rapidly. The cats CCBS works with are considered free-roaming, stray, feral, homeless, and abandoned. It is estimated there are over 10,000 street cats in Bonita Springs alone and over 100,000 in Lee County so TNR is always ongoing. We often find these cats sick, starving, or injured, and mothers with kittens simply show up on someone's property. Often times a neighborhood becomes over run with cats and residents call our group to help with TNR work. Many times, members of the public have to be educated about the importance of TNR versus exterminating the cats. CCBS has 5 trappers who are experienced in various types of humane trapping of cats. Our group also is comprised of volunteers who hold the cats for transport to Gulf Coast Humane Society, Animal Hospital of Bonita, Colonial Animal Hospital, or SNIP Collier all of which work with us to support our TNR efforts in our community. We are very often times called by citizens of Estero and San Carlos Park. We help trap in those areas and taken in adoptable cats and kittens if needed for socialization and adoption.

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

Our Program consists of 41 volunteers. We have 5 trappers for the immediate Bonita Springs area and are called out to assist communities as well. Our trappers have extensive experience in various types of humane cat trapping methods. We do not have a physical animal shelter. Volunteers hold cats for next day transport to TNR clinics that provide low cost spay/neuter services including Gulf Coast Humane Society, Bonita Animal Hospital, Colonial Animal Hospital, and SNIP Collier. We use Lee County Domestic Animals Services if they are available for TNR Services. Cats receive an ear tip and rabies shots as part of the service and are held overnight as a precaution. Volunteers transport cats back to the colony where they are released. CCBS focuses on educating the community about the benefits of TNR. We use bilingual communication methods so we can reach many of those who cannot afford to fix the cats in their neighborhoods.

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

Cats: 442 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	34134, 34135, 34136, 34133
Total human population in target area:	54904
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	8.7
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	16638
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	13726
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	9151
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.

Our targeted areas are lower income areas, low income housing communities, elderly housing, trailer parks, and other areas with fixed income who cannot afford even the low cost spay neuter services. Many don't have means to transport the cats to clinics which are 35 minutes away. Many of these caretakers feed cats but cannot carry out a TNR campaign on their own. Businesses in our community also discover cats and kittens on their property and contact CCBS for assistance. The City estimates there are 10,000 plus free-roaming cats living in Bonita Springs.

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

People allowing unsterilized pets to free roam, abandoned animals, and unsterilized community cats reproducing at a rapid rate create overpopulation in our target areas. The lack of County sponsored easily accessible spay and neuter programs is an ongoing issue.

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?

LCDAS free spay/neuter TNR Program offers an extremely limited number of appointments for TNR and the scheduling process is very limiting which is difficult when dealing with free roaming cats. Also the County shelter has one location to serve a population base of 700,000 plus and it is difficult to access for many, especially those without a car or equipment to capture the cats.

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 plan to TNR an additional 428 cats in the targeted area. As part of our trapping process we often find adoptable cats and kittens that we socialize and adopt out. These methods will reduce the overall feline population of the areas, reduce future cat nuisance issues, and suffering of unwanted, uncared for, free roaming, cats and kittens.

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

The combined approach of our program reduces the number of cats that are producing more kittens and cats by more than 50%. TNR spay/neuter surgeries that CCBS did last year will more than double.

Methods

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

All free roaming, feral, and community cats are eligible. Caretakers and members of the community must be in place to provide food and ongoing TNR for additional cats that appear. CCBS will work with caretakers and community to provide any vet services as necessary. CCBS fields calls for assistance and will work with community members in identifying cats that are in need of TNR.

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

The program will be featured on our website and on our Facebook page both which are followed by our colony caretakers and followers in multiples communities. Also by email, print, social media sites like Twitter and Nextdoor, and press releases to the media. CCBC prints flyers for its fund raising events and distributes bilingual door hangers explaining our program. In communities where we work on TNR projects the news travels also by word-of-mouth through the residents which has been very helpful in our endeavor.

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

We have volunteers to handle the transportation of the cats to and from the clinics. Illiteracy is not a large issue and our some of volunteers are fluent in multiple languages to help bridge cultural and language barriers or gaps.

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 will not require other transportation assistance, other than trained volunteers and colony caretakers. All staff is trained thoroughly regarding handling and transporting and will sign the normal waivers that we currently require.

Veterinary Services

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

Gulf Coast Humane Society will be our main TNR clinic utilized with Lee County Domestic Animal Services when possible. Local to Bonita Springs we utilize Animal Hospital of Bonita for emergency situations. SNIP Collier was a large part of our success this past year as they provided much needed no cost spay/neuter services for the TNR cats we trapped. Fortunate Ferals of Fort Myers also provided CBBS with access to no cost spay/neuter appts at Gulf Cost Humane Society.

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
Gulf Coast Humane Society	2010 Arcadia Street	Fort Myers	Florida	34135	239-332-0364	<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="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
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	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<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:

Gulf Coast Humane Society TNR surgery cost is \$35 per cat male or female and includes an ear tip, rabies vaccine, and pain medication.

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
Animal Hospital of Bonita	Provides discounted veterinary care for sick or injured cats and emergency services.
Fortunate Ferals	Provides TNR training for new trapping volunteers that join our group
Gulf Coast Humane Society	Accepts friendly/socialized cats and kittens into their adoption program.
Haven on Earth Animal League	Assists our adoption process in accepting socialized cats or kittens into their adoption program.

Other Information

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

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, CCBS has recruited a new, experienced, fund raising volunteer who will assist in the effort of raising donations and for spearheading fundraisers. These funds can be used for feeding the feral cat colonies throughout the community and to fund medical care for sick or injured cats as needed. In addition, trained volunteers and colony caretakers will continue with planned, organized trapping in a systematic manner to provide crucial spay and neuter in targeted areas as well as finding homes for adoptable cats and kittens. Wit

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 428 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$35.00

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

CCBS will cover all expenses not covered by the grant. Medical vet services beyond spay/neuter, include worming, vaccinations, flea and parasite treatments, antibiotics all of which our fund raising efforts will cover.

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

Program expenses will be covered by CCBS through regular, on going fund raising efforts, donations, and through targeted fundraising events. In the past year, we have been fortunate to have limited access to TNR grants shared with our group by Fortunate Ferals, Haven on Earth Animal League, and SNIP Collier. This funding is not a regular source so we are hoping to qualify for the FAF Grant to help us continue our TNR program.

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

75

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.**

By receiving this grant to help fund our TNR surgeries, CCBS is free to allocate its non-grant donations and raised funds to conducting larger fundraising events. With our new designated fundraising volunteer, we recently held a miniature golf tournament which was very successful. Our sponsors helped us gain more recognition in our community and the event was very well attended. We will be conducting silent auctions and hosting a music festival fund raiser this summer at a local beach restaurant when it reopens after Hurricane Ian devastated the area. CCBS is actively researching grant resources and going forward we have found several opportunities that we may be eligible for. In addition, we will continue with our online auctions, Facebook donation drives, private donors, and other fundraising venues.

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 promote Florida Animal Friend on our website, on social media and press releases. We will advertise the FAF license plate as part our fund raising efforts to help raise awareness.

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

Unknown