

Grant ID: 2122

Title of Proposal: Spay/Neuter & TNVR

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$15,750.00

Check Payable To: Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Humane Society of the Treasure Coast

Website Address: www.hstc1.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Ashton Standish

Position: Development Manager

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: astandish@hstc1.org

Agency Head: Frank Valente, CEO

Agency Head Email: fvalente@hstc1.org

Organization Business Address: 4100 SW Leighton Farm Ave.

City: Palm City

State: FL

Zip: 34990

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 772-600-3216

County: Martin County

Cell:

Fax:

Agency Details

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

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$4,357,001.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$4,167,784.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 45 Part Time: 4

Number of Active Volunteers: 610

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 1000.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? HSTC receives quarterly newsletters from Florida Animal Friend which is how we learned of the grant competition.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
181	2010	Animobile Mobile Outreach PROGRAM	Denied
1542	2006		Denied
2068	2022	Spay/Neuter & TNVR Program Funding	Denied (not completed)
2122	2023	Spay/Neuter & TNVR	Funded

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

***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 Open Admission Shelter - 5l

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

Name	Title
Alex Ralicki	Director
Christine Myers	Treasurer
Cindi Hobbs	Vice Treasurer
Gary Ober	Director
Jennifer Campbell	First Vice Chair, Secretary
Joshua Ferraro	Director
Katie Astras	Director
Kay Ziegler	Director
Linda Kardos	Director
Marilyn Morris	Director
Ryan Figman	Chairman of the Board
Shaun Kelly	Director
Sonia Pawluc	Director

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

2358 cats and 1222 dogs were admitted.

2206 cats and 928 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

137 cats and 284 dogs were euthanized.

2657 cats and 1356 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stray/lost pet intake | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster program | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellness services to understand pet owners | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteer program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owner surrendered animals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruelty investigation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High volume spay/neuter clinic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lost and found program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavior counseling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of ordinances | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full service wellness clinic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster services | | |

Give additional background information on your organization's programs as they relate to this application and the qualifications of the personnel who will be in charge of this program. Show that you have the capacity to carry out this program.

The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast is the only open access, no-kill animal welfare organization in Martin County, Florida. With more than 7,500 animals receiving care, annually, through our aggressive adoption programs and other services, HSTC is amongst the leading shelters around the state and country operating as a model organization for lifesaving culture change in its community. Through our public spay/neuter and TNVR programs, our nonprofit serves over 2,300 cats, dogs, and rabbits annually. We are the only shelter to offer a public spay/neuter program for rabbits, and the largest low-cost spay/neuter program in our region. As part of our greater Spay/Neuter Program, our humane society is also the only provider of TNVR in the tri-county area. TNVR stabilizes the population (fewer to no births), results in lower animal control costs, reduces nuisance complaints by residents, addresses neighbors' concerns, alleviates public health concerns, and improves the cats' lives. This life saving program helps the entire community reach a solution that benefits everyone. TNVR, along with an aggressive public education program emphasizing the benefits of spaying and neutering, is critical in the effort to control the free-roaming cat population in our community. The team responsible for running our shelter's spay/neuter programs, including TNVR, are certified and trained in no-kill and fear-free animal care. Our Senior Director of Shelter Operations has nearly 20 years of sheltering experience and maintains a commitment of continuing education for herself and shelter staff. Our on-staff veterinarians have years of experience in veterinary care and shelter medicine. Our Feline Department Manager has robust experience working as a cat tech in shelters and is personally and professionally committed to the wellbeing of cats in our community. She has also developed a comprehensive public education program in our community to teach residents about free roaming cats, the importance of TNVR, and how to utilize our shelter programs as a resource. Our team has proudly managed and expanded TNVR in our community since 2017 and are more than qualified to continue executing such an important program.

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

In addition to the spay/neuter procedures our shelter's clinic completes for all adoptable pets, our shelter also offers the largest low-cost spay/neuter program in the region. Over 2,300 dogs, cats, and rabbits are brought to our shelter clinic by responsible pet owners every year to take advantage of our low-cost options for pet sterilization. This is an important part of our organization's efforts to reduce pet overpopulation and pet homelessness. HSTC also offers a Voucher Program that provides low cost spay/neuter vouchers to be used at a private veterinarian's office. The voucher, which covers the costs of the surgery, microchip and registration, rabies vaccination, and nail clipping, can be used at a participating veterinarian in the area that have signed up with the HSTC program. Additional fees may apply at the veterinarian's office. The voucher program is helpful in times when our shelter's public surgery schedules are full. Participating private clinics honor the spay/neuter prices of our low-cost program when vouchers are purchased at our shelter. Since November 2017, our humane society offers Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) to Martin County and our surrounding low-resourced communities. All free-roaming cats brought to HSTC are evaluated for the TNVR program. These cats often display behaviors unsuitable for placement in a home environment. Cats that display behavior suitable for home placement are sterilized and then entered into our Adoption Program. Cats eligible for TNVR must be thriving in their natural environment and must be physically able to continue to maintain a high quality of life outdoors. TNVR cats are brought to our shelter, then spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated for rabies, evaluated by a veterinarian, treated with Revolution, and ear tipped to identify them as spayed or neutered and vaccinated. We often provide additional medical care to these cats, as needed.

After recovery, the cats are then humanely returned to their home or their colony—outdoors.

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

Cats: 836 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Martin County, Okeechobee County, Unincorporated St. Lucie County, City of Port St. Lucie, City of Fort Pierce
Total human population in target area:	543,233
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	12.4
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	164617
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	135809
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	90539
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Unable to obtain.
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Unable to obtain.
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Unable to obtain.
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Unable to obtain.
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We do believe that the target area animal population is as high as indicated above.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
We believe that the primary reasons for pet overpopulation in our target area is the lack of sterilization of pets, caused by: (1) a lack of education of the importance of spay/neuter; (2) barriers in affordability of the sterilization procedures; and (3) barriers in transportation or schedule availability for pet owners to take their pets to/from the procedure. Ultimately, pets are left unsterilized, continuing the cycle of unplanned breeding and pet overpopulation.	
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?	
Our humane society champions responsible pet ownership, including spaying/neutering pets within the community in effort to reduce pet homelessness and overpopulation. In this effort, our organization advocated for policy changes in local ordinances to allow for TNVR in our community and the surrounding communities. After finding success in changing local ordinances in 2017, we became the only organization to offer TNVR services in a tri-county area and collaborated with local governments and agencies to execute this important program. As the only provider of TNVR in the tri-county community, we rely on charitable contributions to continue these low-cost and no-cost services. Additionally, we offer the largest public spay/neuter program in the region to offer pet owners an affordable opportunity to demonstrate responsible pet ownership by spaying or neutering their pet.	
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)?

HSTC maintains a very strong stance on preventing pet homelessness and unnecessary euthanasia. In our community, cats are most at risk of these threats. By providing low-cost spays and neuters, we greatly reduce cat overpopulation, while decreasing the number of cats surrendered to shelters. Before TNVR was implemented in our community, free-roaming cats who didn't meet adoption criteria had to be euthanized in accordance with local ordinances. It's only through our advocacy and TNVR efforts that we were able to transform our organization into the no-kill shelter it is today, and Martin County into a nearly-no-kill community. 72% of our TNVR cats are from jurisdictions we are not reimbursed for, including Martin County, Okeechobee County, and Unincorporated St Lucie. Therefore, of the 600 surgeries we expect to complete this year, we hope to utilize these grant funds for 450 surgeries, including sterilization, pain medication, and rabies vaccinations. While we would not use these funds for this purpose, it's noteworthy to mention that we also provide necessary medical care (most commonly including dental care, leg amputations, eye enucleations, antibiotics, and additional vaccinations if needed) for these cats to ensure their success, health, and wellbeing once returned to their native environment.

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

Our TNVR program is the sole contributor of the existing baseline of TNVR surgeries. Without our program, sterilization surgeries for this cat population in our community would be zero.

Methods

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

For our TNVR program, cats must be free-roaming (not owned) and trapped within the targeted geographic area.

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

The TNVR program is advertised using grassroots efforts in specific neighborhoods where these free-roaming cats are living. This includes volunteers and Animal Services/Animal Control leveraging their relationships in key neighborhoods to spread the word about this program and available resources. We also advertise this program on our website (which receives thousands of views monthly) and on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok social media platforms (with a combined 40,000 followers). We also include information in our monthly newsletter and other informational e-blasts that get sent to over 26,000 email subscribers.

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

We are working with trained volunteers and Animal Services/Animal Control to help provide tools, resources, and in some cases transportation, to community residents who have identified free-roaming cats and colonies. We are also working to become a bilingual organization, to offer resources in Spanish and retain Spanish speakers on staff and in our volunteer arsenal. We also added a google translate feature to our website which can easily translate our website to any language making it more accessible. We are also able to translate our flyers into Spanish. This is a long-term effort that will take time, but it's certainly a priority to address these 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.

Our TNVR program involves transportation of animals by community residents who have trapped the free-roaming cats themselves and by Martin County Animal Services and Okeechobee Animal Control who also trap cats. Community residents are trained in how to use HSTC-provided traps and on how to transport cats to our shelter in a way that is safe for both the cat and the resident.

Veterinary Services

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

TNVR cats trapped and transported by Martin County Animal Control are scheduled at our shelter on the first available in-house surgery day. Cats brought in by a caregiver, regardless of jurisdiction, are scheduled in advance. We are currently scheduling TNVR surgeries every other Friday, with additional appointments on Sunday and Thursday based on veterinarian availability. We complete all our TNVR surgeries here at our shelter. We do not partner with outside veterinarians or do any kind of vouchers for TNVR currently.

Are they: In-House Veterinarian Outside Clinic Combination

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

Fee Range

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

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 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	<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="\$8.50"/>
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 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:

Costs associated with TNVR aside from surgery alone are: microchip, FVRCP vaccine, Selamectin, and then additional treatments as needed on a case-by-case basis, commonly: injectable antibiotics, fluids, additional surgical needs (amputation, enucleation, dental).

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
City of Fort Pierce	Partner in providing TNVR to target area through field identification, trap, transport, and return. The City of Fort Pierce reimburses our shelter for cats they bring to us.
City of Port St. Lucie Animal Control	Partner in referrals, donating traps to our trap depot, and in providing TNVR to target area through field identification, trap, transport, and return. The City of Port St. Lucie reimburses our shelter for cats they bring to us.
Martin County Animal Control Services	Martin County Animal Control aides in providing TNVR services to the target area through field identification, trap, transport, and return. This government agency is also a critical piece in our grassroots efforts to get to know the residents in neighborhoods where these free-roaming cats are most often residing, so that they are understanding our program and trusting our organization. MC

Name	Level of Involvement
	Animal Control also helps teach these community residents how to trap so we can work together to save more lives. Martin County does not reimburse costs for providing TNVR services to their community.
Okeechobee County Community Members	HSTC partners directly with Okeechobee volunteer groups and caregivers to trap, transport, and provide aftercare to free roaming cats. Okeechobee County does not reimburse costs for providing TNVR services to their community.
Port St. Lucie Unincorporated Community Members	Partner in providing TNVR to target area through field identification, trap, transport, and return. This government agency is also a critical piece in our grassroots efforts to get to know the residents in neighborhoods where these free-roaming cats are most often residing, so that they understand our program and trusting our organization. Unincorporated St. Lucie County does not reimburse costs for providing TNVR services to their community.

Other Information

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

HSTC has been building up our TNVR program since its inception in 2017. We have worked diligently to begin educating the public about the services available through HSTC for these free-roaming cats, and have helped people understand the role of the cats and how this program not only reduces the number of cats being born into homelessness, but also improves public health. We have created a trap depot to allow caregivers to borrow traps in order to access these services for the cats in the community. We plan to continue to increase our educational campaigns, as well as to begin hosting classes about TNVR and trapping. We have grown from only working with Martin County animal services, to now also working directly with caregivers all over our community, to make resources even more accessible. Caregivers and constituents are able to reach out to our TNVR coordinator directly by phone and email to ensure all questions and concerns can be addressed appropriately and efficiently.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 450 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,750.00

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.):

Costs associated with TNVR aside from surgery alone are: microchip, FVRCP vaccine, Selamectin, and then additional treatments as needed on a case-by-case basis, commonly: injectable antibiotics, fluids, additional surgical needs (amputation, enucleation, dental). We do receive individual gifts from constituents to support TNVR, so while it's not enough to support the large volume of surgeries we need to complete each year, they are used to support the additional costs that make this such a comprehensive program. Any additional expenses are taken out of our general operating budget.

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

We are always seeking new funding sources for our more nuanced programs, like TNVR. Unfortunately, the importance of TNVR and spay/neuters is still a new perspective to many private foundations. We rely on the industry knowledge of specific grant funders, such as this License Plate Grant, to really understand the significance of our program. Other than the individual gifts that we receive from donors that are restricted towards TNVR, there are no other funding sources for this 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.**

Like piecing a puzzle together, our humane society works with local program partners and a variety of grantors to satisfy the budget needed to meet the needs of our community through TNVR. We believe that the more success we have in our education efforts, the more support we'll find in continuing to help fund it in years to come.

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 are eager to announce our financial funding and partnership with Florida Animal Friend through a media release, our website, e-blasts, and social media platforms. All \$10,000+ supporters are also included in our annual impact report, which is distributed to all supporters and posted on our website. We also plan to use these same channels to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate and encourage our supporters and Martin County residents to support these for-good license plates.****Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:**

Unknown