

Grant ID: 2146

Title of Proposal: Hurricane Ian Cat Recovery Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$14,000.00

Check Payable To: Venice Cat Coalition

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Venice Cat Coalition

Website Address: venicecatcoalition.com

Person Submitting Proposal: Theresa Foley

Position: Executive Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: tfoley1131@comcast.net

Agency Head: Theresa Foley

Agency Head Email: tfoley1131@comcast.net

Organization Business Address: PO Box 991

City: Venice

State: Florida

Zip: 34284

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-525-4568

County: Florida

Cell: 941-275-3382

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/25/2006

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$43,648.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$47,659.00

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 25

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 110.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2009 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2020

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
166	2010	Venice Cat Coalition TNR Proposal	Denied (not completed)
174	2010	Venice Cat Spay-Neuter Project	Denied
218	2011	Northport-Pt. Charlotte Spay Neuter Project	Denied (not completed)
295	2012	Charlotte-S. County Cat S-N Program	Denied
2146	2023	Hurricane Ian Cat Recovery 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
Deborah Whitham	Director
Jan Meades	Director
June Ferrell	Director
Theresa Foley	Director

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

40 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

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

2 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

80 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.

VCC has sponsored and managed TNVR and free spay-neuter for owned pets in this area since 2006, conducting 100 or more spay-neuters annually. Executive Director Theresa Foley has managed the program over all the years and spent about 30 years as a trapper.

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

VCC currently offers spay-neuter for owned and unowned cats with caretakers. We normally provide services to low income residents, the disabled and the elderly. Our service request form asks about annual household income, but we do not turn away any cat based on income level. We also request a \$25 co-pay donation from pet owners but it is not mandatory and is frequently waived.

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

Cats: 80 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	South Sarasota county extending into North Port, Englewood, Rotunda, Placida and Port Charlotte and DeSoto, with primary target being hurricane-damaged areas from Hurricane Ian.
Total human population in target area:	218,686
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	11.25
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	66269
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	54672
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	36448
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.

Hurricane Ian struck our area in Sept. 2022 and caused widespread devastation from Nokomis/Osprey south to Naples. People and animals were displaced and many still do not have adequate housing or resources. This grant proposal is aimed to assist owned or loose cats in the hurricane-damaged zones. We would contain our area to Port Charlotte and northward as the Ft. Myers and Naples areas are too far for us to reach. Our goal is to reach out to the worst hurricane-damaged areas and provide spay-neuter services, which will be no easy task.

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

Many cats became homeless as a result of Ian and a percent are unfixed and reverting from domestic to feral. Backyard breeding, feral cats and unfixed pet cats are the largest sources of overpopulation. Our area is transient and tends to house the working class residents rather than affluent retirees, and these residents frequently take in animals and abandon them unfixed when their circumstances changes.

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?

The nearest spay-neuter clinic services are in Sarasota city or Ft. Myers, which is an hour or more drive in either direction from our target area. Our target area itself has no spay-neuter clinic programs. Past clinics have started up but are not operating at this time.

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)?

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

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

The goal is to provide an additional approximate 254 spay/neuter surgeries to reach more cats that would otherwise not be sterilized.

Methods

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

Any feral, free-roaming outdoor cat populations, and low income owned pet cats in hurricane disaster zones of Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Englewood, Placida, Rotunda, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda and DeSoto are eligible for this program. If the community is within our boundary, we would further narrow to areas with Ian damage.

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

The Venice Cat Coalition will utilize several media venues to advertise the availability of our services and FAF grant funding. We will advertise on our website and post on social media. We will contact animal services and ask for referrals of known cat overpopulation issues in the target areas. We will also advertise in local publications, including the Sarasota-Herald Tribune and their south Sarasota county publication. We also have contacts with local reporters who we can call on to do stories of impact. We realize this differs from the past preferred zip code approach of the grant, but due to the extraordinary problems that have been created/exacerbated by Ian, this would be our preferred method of covering as many cats in the hurricane zone as possible.

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

We have Spanish fliers that explain the TNR process and have humane transport available for those who cannot adequately transport safely.

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.

All cats are transported in Tomahawk humane traps, and our volunteers are trained in safe trapping and handling practices. Thin sheets made into trap coverings are mandatory to keep cats safe from unnecessary injury during the whole TNR process. We hold cats overnight in a temperature controlled area free from mosquitoes to allow for full recovery. Our trappers are educated in return-to-field protocols for post-surgical ferals and how to safely release a feral back home. Additional educational pieces are given to caregivers on how to take care of the cats post-op and what type of signs and symptoms to look for. This information is given verbal and in writing. We instruct caregivers not to release any cat that shows signs and symptoms of any adverse reaction and to contact us immediately for further instruction.

Veterinary Services

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

Humane Society of Sarasota County (lead veterinarian) Lemon Bay Animal Hospital Animal Rescue Coalition Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic Bay Road Animal Hospital

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
Animal Rescue Coalition	6320 Tower Lane	Sarasota	Florida	34240	941-957-1955	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humane Society of Sarasota County	2331 15th Street	Sarasota	Florida	34237	941-955-4131	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lemon Bay Animal Hospital	3060 McCall Road	Englewood	Florida	34224	941-474-7711	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic	8467 S Tamiami Trail	Sarasota	Florida	34238	941-925-7000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fee Range

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

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"/> \$15.00
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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"/> \$10.00
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:

The cost to spay or neuter a feral cat is \$55 per male and \$65 per female sterilization. Built into this cost includes staffing, disposable surgical supplies, pain medications, anesthesia, and dissolvable gut sutures. In addition to these services, the cats also receive Rabies and FVRCP vaccinations and ancillary medication to speed up the healing process which includes Revolt and praziquantal by injection to knock down the parasite burden. The costs for rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines and additional ancillary products have been removed from the proposal and are not part of FAF grant. The cost of \$15.00 per cat will be paid for out of Venice Cat Coalition's general funds to cover these additional items.

Is this a voucher program? No

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

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

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

Community Collaboration

Florida Animal Friend values community/inter-agency collaboration. Are there any local groups (such as rescue groups, animal control agencies, TNR groups, local businesses, local media, social service agencies, etc.) other than your organization and your cooperating veterinarians who are committed to assist?

Yes No

Please list them and detail their level of involvement with the proposed effort.

Name	Level of Involvement
Cattin Around Englewood	Referrals of hot spots in Hurricane damage zone and trapping assistance.
Community Cats of Charlotte	Referrals to hot spots and trap assistance.
Feline Friends of SWFL	TNVR resources and spay/neuter project collaboration.
Humane Society of Sarasota County	Provide spay-neuter veterinary services and referrals to cats/residents in need.

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 track each cat that is spayed/neutered and maintain the data on a spreadsheet to ensure that we meet our goals and timeline.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 254 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$14,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$56.00

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

There is no cost to performing basic examinations and ear tipping which are performed by veterinarians. Rabies vaccines, FVRCP vaccines, and parasite control are given to every cat. The total cost of \$15.00 per cat is not part of the grant and will be paid for out of the Venice Cat Coalition's general funds. Optional microchipping and FeLV/FIV tests will be paid for by caregiver. In the event an FeLV/FIV test is recommended by a veterinarian, Venice Cat Coalition will absorb the cost and expense will be paid for by Venice Cat Coalition's general funds. Other costs such as gasoline, Internet and mail services, kitten fostering, adoption programs and all administrative expenses will be covered by the VCC general budget, which is approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually. IMPORTANT NOTE ON 2022 BUDGET: VCC bore a \$9,000 expense for hurricane repair costs to cat habitat areas after the category 4 storm hit us directly last September. Without this extraordinary expense VCC would have completed 2022 in the black rather than with expenses exceeding income. We work diligently to keep our budget under control and income in excess of expenses.

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

We have currently been awarded a \$12,500 grant for sick and injured cats through the Community Foundation of Sarasota. This is our fourth consecutive year winning this highly competitive local grant. Funding for this grant will be specific to sick or injured cats

and kittens found out in the field that come from TNR colony projects. The funding will provide the medical care needed to get them ready for adoption and into indoor homes. The following fundraising efforts are planned for 2023/2024: • Community Foundation Giving Challenge • Giving Tuesday • Year-end Holiday Fundraising Drive • Go Fund Me campaigns for select cats or kittens needing specialized surgery • Motorworks Brewing Beer Garden fundraiser • Kitten Supply Amazon Wish List Fundraising Drives • Community Cat Food Fundraising Drives

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

77%

Timeline

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with the final report submitted no later than September 1 of the following year.

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

Unexpended funds

Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project.

Requests for extensions

Requests for time extensions are discouraged and not often granted. If it is imperative to request an extension, such request must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. It is FAF's policy to seldom grant more than a 30-60 day extension.

Failure to submit reports and requests within the required time period will impact your agency's future grant applications.

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

***Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having sustainable plans including other grants, local donations and other services generating revenue enhances the chances of receiving this grant.**

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

Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

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

Once we have been approved for the grant, we will write a press release informing the public of our project, letting them know it has been made possible through the Florida Animal Friend license plate funding. We will feature the Florida Animal Friend logo on our website and post on social media. We post spay/neuter projects regularly on our facebook and other social media outlets keeping the public informed on what we are doing. We will inform the public of our success with FAF projects in particular and will encourage the public to purchase Florida Animal Friend license plates so projects like ours can continue to be funded.

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

5