

Grant ID: 2141

Title of Proposal: Fix Them All Collaborative Project for Baker County

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$15,105.00

Check Payable To: Fix Them All

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Pay To Spay dba Fix Them All

Website Address: fixthemall.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Priscilla Caplan

Position: President

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: caplanpriscilla@gmail.com

Agency Head: Priscilla Caplan

Agency Head Email: caplanpriscilla@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 7257 NW 4th Blvd. #20

City: Gainesville

State: FL

Zip: 32607

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-318-3873

County: Alachua

Cell: 352-318-3873

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 04/25/2016

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$140,858.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$199,141.00

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 16

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 110.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2018, 2021 Year(s) denied/incomplete:

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1800	2018	Pay to Spay 2018 Grant Request	Funded
1979	2021	Fix Them All Voucher Program	Funded
2141	2023	Fix Them All Collaborative Project for Baker County	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
Felicia Sternbach	Vice-President
Jo Ellen Sullenbarger	Treasurer
Lindsay Rist-Smith	Director
Natalie Isaza, DVM	Secretary
Priscilla Caplan	President
Sharen Ewing	Director
Sharon Nataline	Director

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

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

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

1686 cats and 940 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.

Pay To Spay, Inc. d/b/a Fix Them All has been operating since 2016, and we've grown from 262 pets "fixed" in 2017 to 2626 pets in 2022. We currently have arrangements with eleven brick-and-mortar practices and one mobile unit, and we are always seeking more veterinary partners. We also partner with other non-profits to provide transportation from rural counties to spay/neuter providers. We are active in 21 counties, have good name recognition, and we have more than 2,800 people following our Facebook page. Our President, Priscilla Caplan, has more than 20 years of experience working with and managing non-profits involved in animal welfare. Our small team of core volunteers are skilled at processing applications and payments, and assisting with transports and mobile surgical sites. Key volunteers include Lucille Reese, Operations Manager, who has been with Fix Them All from its inception, and Jo Ellen Sullenbarger, Outreach Coordinator, who also serves on our Board and handles our bookkeeping. Partnerships with other non-profit animal welfare organizations like Twisted Oaks Rescue and The London Sanctuary have aided in our expansion. For this proposal, Fix Them All is the lead organization in a proposed collaboration between Fix Them All, First Coast No More Homeless Pets, and Baker County government. Fix Them All will process applications and register pet owners through our low-cost voucher program and will act as fiscal agent. First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP) will perform spay/neuter surgeries and run an animal transport between locations in Baker County and their high-volume spay/neuter clinic in Jacksonville. Baker County management will help promote the project and provide a drop-off/pick-up location for the transport service. First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP), a nonprofit animal welfare organization founded in 2002, operates one of the largest spay/neuter centers and full-service safety net veterinary hospitals in the nation. Last year alone FCNMHP performed 21,819 spay neuter surgeries and provided affordable accessible veterinary service to residents from 13 counties while partnering with 20 local rescue and shelter groups. FCNMHP currently operates a transport program for TNR cats and in years past has operated several different animal transport programs including a Neuter Commuter in rural areas. FCNMHP employs a transport coordinator and veterinary technician who will assist with this new partnership with the support of trained volunteers. FCNMHP has two transport vehicles that will be used to support this 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

Our voucher program provides very low cost spay/neuter for owned pets and loosely owned cats in lower-income, under-resourced rural counties of North Central Florida. We make arrangements with veterinary practices in the counties we serve to provide discounted spay/neuter pricing for our clients. We connect clients with these practices and give them vouchers for a low co-payment (\$30 per cat, \$50 per dog). Co-pays for hardship cases are waived. We subsidize the difference between the negotiated cost of surgery and the client's co-payment with our own funds raised through individual donations and grants.

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

Cats: 1686 **Dogs:** 940

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Baker County, FL
Total human population in target area:	28,259
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	12.8
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	8564
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	7065
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	4710

Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	198
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	337
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	106
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	127
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
The figures above don't reflect the fact that the shelter is often at capacity. The intake of owner surrenders was suspended in 2020, and when the shelter is full it cannot take in strays, which are left to roam.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Baker county comprises 5879 square miles in north Florida including part of the Okefenokee Swamp. The county has low population density, low average household income, and only two small animal veterinary clinics. The lack of availability of spay/neuter is certainly a contributing factor to pet overpopulation, as is the expense, as pet care may not be seen as a priority compared to groceries and gas. Many residents have no relationship with veterinary practices. According to County management, there is also a mindset in rural areas that it is not a problem to let pets roam freely.	
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 two small animal veterinary practices in the county, both in Macclenny, the county seat. (These practices do not participate in Fix Them All's voucher program, although we stay in touch and continue to hope that they'll work with us some day.) Although the Fix Them All spay/neuter voucher program is available to residents of Baker County, we have historically received very low numbers of applications (only 4 in 2021) most probably because of the distance pet owners would have to travel to access a veterinarian participating in our program. In 2022, Fix Them All in partnership with the Humane Society of North Central Florida (HSNCF) initiated a monthly transport between Macclenny and the HSNCF clinic in Gainesville, taking dogs and cats on alternate months. Because of that, we were able to sterilize 269 Baker pets in 2022. We have an agreement with HSNCF to continue this transport through calendar 2023. However, the transport is always fully booked and can only take 15 dogs or 24-26 cats in a trip. A Baker County non-profit, the London Sanctuary, also runs a monthly transport to HSNCF for dogs only, funded in part by a 2022 FAF grant to HSNCF which will end this summer. Because of the lack of accessible spay/neuter services, Baker county suffers a serious pet overpopulation problem. The county animal shelter has kennel capacity for 32 dogs when all can be used, but a single dog requiring quarantine can make five kennels unavailable. It has not taken owner surrenders since the start of the Covid pandemic. The shelter is staffed and open to the public from 8:30 to noon only on four weekdays; there are no weekend hours, and animals are left alone on weekends except for feeding. They have no foster program and do not post adoptable animals online, but will relinquish animals to rescue groups and will take dogs to adoption events in neighboring counties when possible. Area rescues do their best to pull dogs from Baker but most rescues are overwhelmed this year.	
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:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Large mixed-breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Objectives

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

With these funds, we will sterilize 212 cats and 106 dogs belonging to residents of Baker County. (Some of the cats may be ferals brought in by Baker County residents.) The

animals will be transported between pickup/dropoff locations in Baker County and First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville for surgery. All animals will have a pre-surgical exam and will be vaccinated for rabies if the owner cannot provide proof of current vaccination status. Dogs will receive three days take-home pain medication.

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

Our baseline is 269 Baker County animals sterilized in 2022. The additional 318 animals fixed with this funding will more than double that.

Methods

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

Our program has always targeted low-income areas, not low-income individuals. All of our promotional materials say “if the cost of spay/neuter would be a hardship for you, you might qualify for our program”. This may dissuade people of means from applying, but we don’t disqualify anyone living in our target areas. The cost of unsubsidized spay/neuter with private veterinary practices has increased greatly since 2020, so people who would have managed to afford it only a few years ago are struggling today.

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

We have a presence on the web and on social media, and our current monthly transport from Macclenny to Gainesville is always full. First Coast No More Homeless Pets will also promote the program on their social media platforms including their website, their Facebook page which currently has 33k followers and Instagram with 3k followers, as well as in their email and newsletter communications reaching 32,000 subscribers. Baker County itself has good social media presence. The Baker Board of County Commissioners will publicize the program on both their official webpage and a Facebook page. The Advisory Committee for the shelter will also promote the project on their Facebook group as well as on individual member pages. The Baker County Press will also provide free promotion, especially useful for reaching residents who are not active Internet users.

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

A primary barrier in Baker County is the distance pet owners must travel to a spay/neuter provider. These are addressed by the FCNMHP transport, which will leave from the County Commission office in Macclenny and possibly from a second location in Sanderson.

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.

A 2018 Nissan Sprinter van and a 2014 Ford box truck, both owned by FCNMHP, will be utilized for the transports. The vehicle used will depend animals being transported in any particular run. No special license is required to operate either of the vehicles. Both vehicles are maintained by Jacksonville Truck Center to ensure safe and reliable operation. Dogs and cats will not be mixed on transports, but rather transported on different days. All dogs will be confined to appropriately sized wire crates. Domestic cats will be confined to cat carriers and feral cats will be confined to humane feral cat traps. All transport personnel including volunteers will be trained on FCNMHP transport protocols which have been developed with insight from the ASPCA SOP for animal relocation.

Veterinary Services

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

Surgeries will be performed by First Coast No More Homeless Pets, a non-profit which operates a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic described in more detail above.

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
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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="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$125.00"/>

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 Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Rabies Vaccination if Due Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Other Vaccination if Due Required Optional Not Available

No Yes

Pain Medication Required Optional Not Available

No 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 costs \$14-\$17 depending on the type. Ear tipping is required for feral cats only.

Is this a voucher program? Yes**If so, how will you assure utilization of the program?**

When we receive an application and the required co-payment from a client, we will schedule the pet on the next applicable transport and email or call the client with details. Staff at the transport site check in the animals. No-shows happen, but they are rare because they risk forfeiting the co-payment.

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

FCNMHP employs full time surgeons in a spay neuter center that is open to the public six days per week. The surgeons employed are trained in high volume surgical techniques and have the ability to perform a minimum of 35 surgeries each day per senior surgeon. FCNMHP performed 21,819 spay neuter surgeries last year, and intends to increase capacity in the years ahead to keep up with the rising demand for services.

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

Yes.

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
Baker County Board of Commissioners	Will promote the project, ensure shelter cooperation, and provide a venue for the transport.
Baker County Press	Will provide free advertising for the project.
The London Sanctuary	Will promote the project and help with logistics.

Other Information

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

We just want to point out our good track record completing previous projects, and the fact that we have worked successfully with all of the partners in this project.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 212 **Dogs:** 106

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,105.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$48.00

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 are no incremental charges for animals pregnant or in heat, but there is a charge for cryptorchidism that the owner must pay. The pet owner can optionally pay for other services as listed in the "Veterinary Services" section of this application. A pre-surgical exam, rabies vaccination, ear tipping for feral cats, and an injection of antibiotics are all included with the surgery at no extra cost.

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

This application is to expand our program in Baker County only. Payments from pet owners for our vouchers, funds from FAF, and the donation of transport services from FCNMHP should fully cover the cost of this project, but if necessary we can use our general operating budget to make up any shortfall. We have ongoing fundraising efforts that may include Baker County and/or target other counties that we work in.

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

56.5

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: 01/01/24/ **Projected end date:** 12/31/24

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.**

Fix Them All has been providing access to low-cost spay/neuter through our voucher program since 2016. Program service revenue (copayments for our vouchers) provides about 40% of our operating funds. We have been funded in the past by grants from Florida Animal Friend, the Bissell Pet Foundation, PetCo Love, the DJ&T Foundation, the Summerlee Foundation, ColliesFlorida, and the Wagmore Foundation, and we will continue to apply to these and other funding agencies as appropriate. We receive ongoing donations from businesses, the general public, and our Board of Directors. In 2021 we received our first bequest, the bulk of which has been invested to support our continuing operations. We have been accepted as a recipient agency in the University of Florida Campaign for Charities for 2023. We also hold fundraisers both on social media and as events; for example this month we held a painting party that raised over \$650 in one afternoon. Continuing and expanding our program is always a matter of achieving a balance between funding and capacity. We have a good track record and no doubt that we are sustainable in the future.

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.**

The home page of our website already displays the Florida Animal Friend logo with a link to the FAF website. If we get this grant, we will announce it prominently on our website and Facebook page. We will send press releases to the major news outlets in Gainesville (Gainesville Sun, Independent Alligator, WUFT-FM, WCJB) and also to the smaller papers in the counties we serve (Dixie County Advocate, Chiefland Citizen, Gilchrist County Journal, Hardisonink, Levy Citizen). FTA writes a monthly column "Pawsome News" for the Levy Citizen and Gilchrist County Journal, and we can dedicate all or part of a column to FAF and the work it does locally and all over the state. All of our participating veterinarians carry the FAF promotional handout at their clinics and we will ensure that they continue to do so. The FAF handout card is included in our display at all of events we participate in (please see attached photo of one of our event easels). In addition to our own efforts, our partners in this project (FCNMHP and the Baker County Board of Commissioners) will promote FAF and the Spay/Neuter License plate through their own media channels.

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