

Grant ID: 2155

**Title of Proposal:** OPERATION TNVR HILLSBOROUGH

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** RESCUE PETS OF FLORIDA INC

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** RESCUE PETS OF FLORIDA INC

**Website Address:** www.rescuepetsofflorida.org

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Loretta Williams

**Position:** Grants and Fundraising Volunteer

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** lwilliams.rpof@gmail.com

**Agency Head:** Jeanine Cohen

**Agency Head Email:** jeaninecohen@gmail.com

**Organization Business Address:** 4220 Waterville Ave.

**City:** Wesley Chapel

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 33543

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 813-625-2405

**County:** Pasco

**Cell:** 813-625-2405

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/23/2014

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$426,447.99

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$328,430.00

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

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 160

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 1600.00

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

Grant Advertisements and Announcements. Shared Posts on social media. Conversations with prior award winners. Word of mouth from Florida Animal Friend license plate purchasers and colleagues in animal welfare.

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

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

**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2155	2023	OPERATION TNVR HILLSBOROUGH	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
Jeanine Cohen	Director
Lynn D'Ovido	Director
Tara Pisano	Director

**Applicant Qualifications**

**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

**2930 cats and 243 dogs were admitted.**

**2700 cats and 220 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**10 cats and 3 dogs were euthanized.**

**2700 cats and 220 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.**

Rescue Pets of Florida (RPOF) became a 501(c)3 cat rescue in 2014 as ResQCats Inc. In 2016, the nonprofit organization became Rescue Cats of Florida and after expanding to admit dogs in 2021, the rescue rebranded as Rescue Pets of Florida. With over 160 active foster families and volunteers, Rescue Pets of Florida is one of the largest all volunteer, foster-based animal rescues in Florida. Rescue Pets of Florida operates 5 high volume adoption centers in local Petsmarts and has been recognized by Petsmart Charities as one of their top ten rescue partners. In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, Tampa Bay area cat rescues and TNVR groups have been experiencing a severe shortage of low cost surgery spots to sterilize adoptable and trapped community cats and kittens. To address this need, President and Founder of Rescue Pets of Florida Jeanine Cohen partnered with Slomba Shelter Solutions in 2021 and 2022 to launch a pilot program consisting of once a month Sunday pop up spay/neuter clinics. Utilizing relief veterinarians and veterinary technicians engaged by Slomba Shelter Solutions, rescue group volunteers, and the off-duty surgery centers of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, 15 popup clinics have successfully sterilized and vaccinated over 1500 cats and kittens with 10 of those popup clinics specifically targeting trapped free-roaming, feral, and community cat populations. The free-roaming, feral, and community cats were sterilized, vaccinated, and returned back to their habitats. The popup clinics were held mostly on Sundays outside of normal business operating hours when the surgery centers would otherwise be closed. With the weekend popup clinic model tested with success, Rescue Pets of Florida now wants to apply it to the sterilization of feral and community cats in Hillsborough County. With a proven record of success and with additional funding awarded through this grant, Rescue Cats of Florida is confident in their ability to execute 5 additional TNVR Pop-Up Spay/Neuter Clinics to sterilize approximately 500 feral and community cats in underserved areas of Hillsborough County.

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

The 2021/2022 pilot program of weekend pop-up spay/neuter clinics was for the sterilization of approximately 500 adoptable cats and kittens and 1000 trapped community and feral cats and kittens and was funded primarily through adoption donation fees, donations from the public and rescue supporters, and fundraising campaigns. The pop-ups completed for Operation TNVR Pasco were largely funded by Operation SNIP, a program in Pasco County for Pasco County cats. It is difficult for rescues to fund TNVR projects as there is not an established revenue stream of adoption donation fees to help recoup expenses. Rescue Pets of Florida will depend on grant funding from organizations such as Florida Animal Friend to achieve their goal of sterilizing 500 feral and community cats in under served populations in Hillsborough County.

**Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:****Cats:** 1500 **Dogs:**

## Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):</b>	Hillsborough County, Florida
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	1,528,924
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	16.94
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	463311
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	382231
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	254821
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
We believe the target area animal population is similar to that listed above.	

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

According to the Humane Society of the United States, feral and community cats are the most significant source of cat overpopulation because only 2% have been sterilized and they produce approximately 80% of the kittens born each year. A scientific study conducted by Alley Cat Allies and published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Association claims that only 2.3% of free-roaming, feral and community cats are sterilized. For Hillsborough County, this formula indicates the most substantial source of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area is the lack of access to affordable sterilization options, especially for feral and community cats. The pandemic has increased economic hardships and rescues, trappers and colony caretakers have noted an increase in non-sterilized pet abandonment. Due to staffing shortages, high inflation, and economic uncertainty which negatively affect donations and fundraising, existing nonprofit organizations and shelters do not have the resources to expand their programs to meet the demand. Yet this demand is too great to permit surgery bays to sit idle outside of normal business hours.

**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?**

Hillsborough County is fortunate to have a dedicated network of rescues, cat trappers, and volunteers, but there are few programs that provide low or no cost sterilizations for feral and community cat populations. The taxpayer funded voucher program applies to only owned cats. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay runs a feral cat Monday program where cats in traps are spayed or neutered on a first come/first serve basis. They also offer appointments throughout the week, but reservations are extremely limited. Harmony Veterinary Clinic also offers a Monday spay and neuter clinic once a month where trapped community cats may be sterilized but those appointments also fill up quickly. The Pet Resource Center, Hillsborough County's public shelter, has limited availability most recently due to staff shortages so surgical overflow is directed to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay further overextending that organization's resources. Surgery spots fill up quickly with insufficient availability to meet the high demand in the county. Local cat trappers and rescues must compete for these limited surgery appointments and often free roaming, feral, and community cat sterilizations are displaced to help meet the demand for sterilization surgeries of adoptable rescue cats and kittens and owned cats and kittens brought in by the public. During kitten season, availability of surgical spots are often weeks out and many rescues must direct their limited resources to sterilizing adoptable cats and kittens.

**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)?**

The objective of this project is to spay and neuter 500 feral and community cats currently residing in high volume areas of Hillsborough County, Florida.

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

The spay and neuter pop up clinics run by Rescue Pets of Florida will operate at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay on Sundays when regular surgeries are not performed and the surgery bays would otherwise sit idle. This project will add an additional 500 surgery spots to help meet the demand.

## Methods

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

Eligibility will be determined through a triage process where requests for assistance from the public, colony caretakers, trappers, and rescues will be submitted by way of a questionnaire on [www.operationtnvrhillsborough.org](http://www.operationtnvrhillsborough.org). Some of the eligibility factors include the number and density of feral or community cats needing sterilization in a specific

area such as a trailer park or apartment complex. Are cats in immediate physical danger? Are they deemed a nuisance due to non-sterilized cat behaviors such as fighting and spraying? Are there kittens or pregnant females? Are there cats in need of medical care? These questions will be addressed in the questionnaire and then the areas of service prioritized to determine the allotment distribution of surgery appointments. Feral and community cats and kittens will then be transported to the clinics in humane cat traps, weighed, and deemed healthy enough for surgery as determined by a veterinarian. Kittens must weigh at least 2 pounds to be eligible for surgery.

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

Volunteers and trappers will distribute notices in areas of high potential in the target area. It will also be advertised with the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, local cat rescues, and on social media.

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

We will use trappers, feeders, colony caretakers, and other volunteers to instruct the affected residents on the advantages of TNVR. Much of this contact will occur in person or through targeted advertisements. Contacts and instructions will be provided in Spanish where appropriate.

**Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe the vehicles, methods for confinement, personnel training, liability releases used to assure the safety of the animals and handlers.**

The transportation of cats in humane traps from the trapping sites to the clinics will be done by rescue volunteers, cat trappers or colony caretakers.

Veterinary Services

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

Rescue Pets of Florida has partnered with Slomba Shelter Solutions, LLC to engage relief veterinarians and veterinary technicians from across the state to perform the sterilization surgeries.

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
Nadine Znajda, DVM	PO Box 1712	Valrico	FL	33595	813-523-2134	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slomba Shelter Solutions, LLC	1840 Country Meadows Terrace	Sarasota	Florida	34235	716-474-0335	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>

<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<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

	<b>Required, Optional, or Not Offered</b>	<b>Fee to Client?</b>
<b>Examination</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Microchip</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other</b>	<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 spay and neuter surgeries will be completed at \$50 per cat which includes the surgery, pain medication, and \$2 dollars per cat to offset the cost of the rabies vaccine. Rescue Pets of Florida will cover the cost the Rabies Vaccine less the \$2 per cat covered by the grant award, the FVRCP vaccine, and Revolution. Cats suffering from illness or injury will be taken into the rescue for evaluation and further veterinary treatment. Kittens and abandoned adoptable cats will also be taken into the rescue. No fees will be charged to the client and Rescue Pets of Florida will cover all costs outside of the guidelines of this grant award.

**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
Cat Haven Rescue Inc.	Cat Haven Rescue Inc. will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
Cat Trap Fever	Cat Trap Fever will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
CATpassionate Village Inc.	CATpassionate Village Inc. will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
First Ladies Farm and Sanctuary Inc	First Ladies Farm and Sanctuary Inc will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
Fix and Feed Feline Feral Inc.	Fix and Feed Feline Feral Inc. will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
Humane Society of Tampa Bay	Humane Society of Tampa Bay will provide the surgical facilities for the pop-up spay and neuter clinics on Sundays when regular surgeries are not performed. They will also inform their volunteer cat trappers of the option to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinic.
Makin' Biscuits Rescuery Inc.	Makin' Biscuits Rescuery Inc. will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.
St. Francis Society Inc.	St. Francis Society will utilize their volunteer cat trappers and TNVR team to participate in the Sunday pop-up clinics.

## Other Information

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

The goal of this project is to sterilize 500 free-roaming, feral and community cats in our Sunday pop up spay and neuter clinics. While some calculations may vary, an estimate by Dr. Desmond Morris, the renowned British zoologist and author of The Cat Encyclopedia states that "if you start with a single breeding pair of domestic cats and assume that they create 14 kittens for each year that they have three litters, in five years there will be a total of 65,536 offspring." This is why rescues and communities cannot "adopt" their way out of the overpopulation of homeless cats and kittens. There are simply not enough homes available. Sterilizing even one feral or community cat prevents generations of suffering. Sterilizing 500 cats will prevent the birth of over 16,000,000 homeless kittens over a 5 year period. Communities cannot afford to have high volume surgery centers sit idle for even one day a week when the demand for homeless feral and community cat sterilizations is bottle necked due to the lack of access to low or no cost veterinary surgeries.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:****Cats:** 500 **Dogs:** 0**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$25,000.00**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$50.00**Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for (for example, vaccines, microchipping, ear notching, etc.):**

Incurring expenses covered by Rescue Pets of Florida and not included in the grant are rabies vaccines less the \$2 per cat covered by the grant award, FVCRP vaccines, Revolution, additional costs for surgeries above the grant amount, intake costs and supplies for kittens and abandoned adoptable cats, veterinary care for illnesses or injury outside of sterilization costs, incidentals.

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

Additional funding sources include budget allocations, adoption donation fees, online fundraising campaigns, fundraising events, donor support, and pursuit of additional grant funding.

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

80%

## 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:** 03/31/24

**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.**

Rescue Pets of Florida will continue to apply for funding through grants and donation drives so more pop up spay clinics can be operated. RPOF also has a stream of revenue through adoption donation fees, fundraising campaigns, and donor support which can be applied when necessary. Through partnerships with other cat rescues and TNVR groups, the distribution of operational costs can be suggested according to participation if necessary.

## 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.**

**Rescue Pets of Florida will launch a promotion campaign incorporating materials in the Florida Animal Friend marketing kit to thank the Florida Animal Friend Grant Program for their generous award and encourage the purchase of Florida Animal Friend license plates to continue funding future spay and neuter programs. The campaign will include advertising on the Rescue Pets of Florida website, social media pages, newsletters, and rack cards available for distribution in the rescue's adoption centers and in the rescue's adoption packages.**

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

**25**