

Grant ID: 2160

**Title of Proposal:** Pets of Polk 2023

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

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

**Check Payable To:** SPCA Florida

### Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** SPCA Florida

**Website Address:** <https://www.spcaflorida.org/>

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Jordan LeVine

**Position:** Grant and Sponsor Manager

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** jlevine@spcaflorida.org

**Agency Head:** Shelley Thayer

**Agency Head Email:** sthayer@spcaflorida.org

**Organization Business Address:** 5850 Brannen Rd S

**City:** Lakeland

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 33813

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 863-646-7722

**County:** Polk

**Cell:**

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/06/1980

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$5,746,000.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$6,382,000.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 56 Part Time: 8

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 495

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 418.00

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

We are proudly a previous recipient.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2006, 2009, 2010

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
108	2009	Florida Animal Friend Grant Proposal	Denied
182	2010	Feral Cat Round Up	Denied (not completed)
354	2013	Community Cats	Funded
1466	2015	Spay/Neuter of Low-Income Residents	Funded
1594	2006		Denied
1695	2017	Low Income Spay/Netuer	Funded
1840	2019	Pets of Polk	Funded
1986	2021	Pets of Polk 2021	Funded
2160	2023	Pets of Polk 2023	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
Chris Warnock	Treasurer
Dawn Diaz	Board Member
Dr. Linda Silver	Board Member
Karen Mitchell	President
Katie Norvell	Board Member
Katrina Barcellona	Board Member
Marion Smith	Vice President
Stacy Walsh	Secretary

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**2949 cats and 1135 dogs were admitted.**

**2597 cats and 1088 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**35 cats and 13 dogs were euthanized.**

**2322 cats and 691 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.**

Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida has been on a mission to healthier animals and a more humane community. Realizing that adoption alone was not enough to end the overpopulation of animals in Polk County, SPCA Florida opened the SPCA Florida Medical Center in 2001. Our low-cost full-service veterinary hospital performs spay and neuter surgeries, regular exams, vaccinations, microchipping, dental care, x-rays, and surgical procedures and cares for approximately 15,000 pets each year. Our medical center is led by three full-time Veterinarians and two part-time Veterinarians backed by 11 technicians. SPCA Florida has existed for more than 40 years, and we have the staff, expertise, and connection to the community needed to be successful.

**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 low-cost spay and neuter program is directly correlated to the funding we have at that given time. Our team prioritizes seeking funds to provide our community with low-cost services for their pets.

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

**Cats: 1402 Dogs: 189**

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):</b>	Polk County, Florida
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	725,046
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	15.7%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	219711
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	181262
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	120841
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	7454
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4987

<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3142
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	924
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> The above date is accurate.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> Free roaming cats have been and still are the most substantial source of overpopulation in Polk County. Many of these cats have owners but are not spayed or neutered causing unwanted births. With the number of pet owners, 67% being cat owners, utilizing our monthly food bank, Ani-meals program, and low-cost medical services, we know that there is an overwhelming need for free feline spay and neuter services in our community.	
<b>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?</b> Polk County has around 40 for-profit veterinary clinics with pricing that is out of reach for low-income pet owners. Along with us, TLC Pet Snip offers low cost spay and neuter services. However, we are seeing an overwhelming need for free spay and neuter services to offer families that are still unable to pay.	
<b>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:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Pets in low-income families</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Large mixed-breed dogs</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	

## Objectives

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

SPCA Florida will perform 455 free spay and neuter services for owned cats belonging to income-qualified pet owners. By providing our community with this free service, we hope to continue to push closer to our goal of a No-Kill Polk County by 2025. We have made tremendous strides in the save rate for dogs in Polk County with the save rate at Polk County Animal Control for 2022 being 83.06%. However, Polk County Animal Control's save rate for cats is: 2018 - 24.15%, 2019 - 33.88%, 2020 - 44.72%, 2021 - 55.09%, 2022 - 58.54%.

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

The Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter Grant will increase the number of free spay/neuter surgeries performed by 455 above the baseline. This will directly impact pet owners who otherwise wouldn't have the ability to spay and neuter their pets because of cost.

## Methods

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

Cat owners will need to complete a short form that includes name, address, and phone number, and show proof of income that corresponds to government low-income guidelines. Examples of proof of income include VA Disability, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Social Security Disability, pay stubs, WIC, and similar. We will post eligibility requirements clearly on flyers, our website, and other marketing materials.

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

We plan to reach our target audience through multiple faucets of marketing. We will hand out flyers at our monthly food bank, post on our social media channels and websites, issue a press release, and share on our radio spot. We will post flyers throughout our community targeting businesses in low-income areas. We will also offer this program in our shelter surrender department as a resource to keep cats in their homes. Often, we see that financial hardship is one of the main reasons for surrendering pets to SPCA Florida.

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

Our volunteers and staff are trained and covered to transport animals to and from appointments if needed. We also have bilingual staff and brochures. Coming up in April of 2023, we are also part of an "Open Arms Challenge" through Maddie's Fund to become more inclusive and to target communities that we typically do not market to. Through this challenge, we hope to open up communication to more low-income areas in Polk County that we can share our resources with. We will be placing our first ad in a Spanish only magazine, visiting Title 1 schools with over 60% of students in low-income brackets, and placing flyers in these areas as well. Our flyers will be clear and concise, making them easy to understand.

**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.**

If transportation assistance is needed, our trained transporters are required to show proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. SPCA Florida has liability insurance coverage and liability paperwork for drivers to sign. Transports will be done in SPCA Florida's vehicles that are made specifically for transporting animals.

**Veterinary Services**

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

Spay and neuter surgeries will be performed by on-staff veterinarians in SPCA Florida's medical center or spay/neuter trailer.

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	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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;"/> \$24.00
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b> <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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;"/> \$36.00
<b>County License</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>Ear tipping</b> <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Not Available	<input 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 grant funds will cover the spay and neuter surgery and pain medication. SPCA Florida will cover vaccines, parasite medication, microchip, etc. For cats, the microchip is especially important as Polk County Animal Control euthanizes all cats caught in traps that are not microchipped.

**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
Hall Communications	Our Public Relations Director appears on our local radio stations weekly to talk about adoptable animals and programs offered to the community, such as free spay/neuter services.
Meals on Wheels, Viste, Mid-Florida Senior Center	Our Ani-meals program provides food for homebound families through Meals on Wheels, Viste, and Mid-Florida Senior Center. Many of these clients are in need of free spay/neuter services..
PGTV	PGTV is a local television station. We appear monthly to share programs offered to the community. When we have free spay and neuter programs available, we share this on PGTV.
Polk County Animal Control	We are proudly collaborating with our local Polk County Animal Control in an effort to increase our community's live release rate and to become a no-kill county by 2025.
Polk County Bully Project	SPCA Florida provides low-cost spay and neuter services to PCBP for their adoptable dogs. Through this partnership, they refer cat owners needing assistance to SPCA Florida.
Polk No Kill Coalition	We partner with PNKC to spay and neuter the community cats that they trap and release. We work closely with this rescue group, and they refer cat owners needing low-cost or free spay and neuter services to SPCA Florida.

## Other Information

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

The animals and families that we assist will be tracked through our medical center's database. We will closely monitor the progress of the grant to ensure we help the 455 pets proposed in this application.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 455 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$55.00

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

SPCA Florida will pay for necessary vaccines, microchipping, and cap star as needed. If the pet has additional medical needs, we will assist with veterinary care, paid for through our Compassion Funds program.

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

We host 3 fundraising events each year with funds supporting this program. We also have a Compassion Fund program funded by grants and individual donors that ensures no pet will go without the veterinary care they need.

**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:** 06/30/24

**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.**

We have funds allocated in our budget for our low-cost programs. We also have a dedicated Compassion Fund to provide financial assistance to low-income pet owners in our community. We aim to be a resource for our community and to never turn anyone away due to financial hardship. SPCA Florida seeks funding through other community focused spay/ neuter grantors, and we also utilize funds raised through our three major fundraising events each year to help supplement these low-cost programs.

## 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.**

**SPCA Florida will promote Florida Animal Friend and their support through placement on our website and all social media channels, and via press releases, newsletters, e-blasts, and flyers. We will also place rack cards promoting Florida Animal Friend license plates in our adoption center lobby, medical center, and administration building. The sale of the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate will be included in all marketing mentioned above.**

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

**Unknown**