

Grant ID: 2118

Title of Proposal: Pet Fix: Save Lives

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Suwannee Valley Humane Society, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Suwannee Valley Humane Society, Inc.

Website Address: www.suwanneevalleyhumanesociety.us

Person Submitting Proposal: Catheryn Mellinger

Position: Vice President, Project Manager

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: bcmellinger@windstream.net

Agency Head: Shirley Minster

Agency Head Email: shirleymhome@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 1156 SE Bisbee Loop

City: Madison

State: Florida

Zip: 32340

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 850-971-9904

County: Madison

Cell: 207-329-1030

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 07/17/1984

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$103,544.06

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$88,645.92

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 7

Number of Active Volunteers: 22

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 142.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? From our sister animal welfare organization, North Florida PAWS, Inc. (North Florida People for Animal Welfare Society, Inc.)

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

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
51	2009	S.T.O.P	Funded
198	2011	S.A.V.E	Denied (not completed)
1578	2006		Denied (not completed)
2118	2023	Pet Fix: Save Lives	Funded

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

***Type of Organization (check all that apply):**

- Municipal Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter with Municipal Contract
- Public Spay/Neuter Services
- Other Public Veterinary Services
- Private Non-Profit Agency
 - TNR Group
 - Rescue Group
- Other

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

Name	Title
Catheryn Mellinger	Vice President
Jean Calabrese	Recording Secretary
Paula Shaw	Treasurer
Richard Witt	Corresponding Secretary
Shirley Minster	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

57 cats and 100 dogs were admitted.

63 cats and 98 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

57 cats and 100 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.

Suwannee Valley Humane Society (SVHS) is a no-kill animal shelter incorporated in 1984. In 2002, we purchased a vacant greyhound farm in Madison County and have continued to rescue dogs and cats from the surrounding counties. All adoptable cats, dogs, puppies and kittens are altered after entering the shelter. We have promoted North Florida PAWS' subsidized spay/neuter program since 2006 and recently established a fund to issue vouchers to low-income pet owners through fundraising events and grants: SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program). The two people in charge of managing our program are: 1) Barbara Fink, Shelter Manager, who has worked at SVHS since 1997 and is a highly qualified manager of all aspects of the shelter and supervisor of the volunteers. 2) Catheryn Mellinger, Vice President, is the Project Manager. She has been a dedicated volunteer with SVHS since 2012. Her qualifications include a BS degree in Community Health Education, work experience as a Public Health Nurse, and over ten years volunteer experience with our shelter which makes her the perfect person to manage this program and the grant.

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

Suwannee Valley Humane Society mandates all dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens are spayed or neutered prior to release to adopters. We have implemented a subsidized program called SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) to help low-income pet owners and Feral Colony Caretakers get their animals fixed.

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

Cats: 57 **Dogs:** 100

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Madison, Jefferson, Gadsden, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties
Total human population in target area:	135,035
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	22.1%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	40920
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	33759
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	22506
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.

We believe the estimated population of cats and dogs in the targeted area is higher than the national average because this is a highly rural, poor region in North Central Florida. The five identified counties average very low in per capita income (\$20,005), have a high poverty rate (22.1%), and have a high school dropout rate (19.2%). [Source: US Census

Bureau.] Because of these disadvantages, a high number of agricultural immigrants who own dogs and cats, and the limited sheltering resources, there are significantly more intact cats and dogs reproducing.

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

Large dogs, over 40 pounds, are very popular among the poorer members in the targeted area and they make up a higher than usual percentage of the dog population. There is also a very large number of community, feral, and owned cats. The majority of these intact dogs and cats live outdoors.

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 three (3) full-time clinics and one (1) part-time clinic available for lower-cost spay/neuter surgeries available to residents in our target area. TALLAHASSEE: Animal Aid Spay/Neuter Center is a veterinary clinic with emphasis on spay/neuter. A part-time clinic Tally Spay opened two days a week available to surrounding counties. SUWANNEE COUNTY: In Live Oak, Suwannee PAWS is a small veterinary clinic offering lower cost spay/neuter. South of Wellborn is North Florida Animal Rescue which has a full-service veterinary clinic with emphasis on spay/neuter.

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)?

Based on an average cost of \$47.50 per surgery from grant funds (\$40 for cats and \$55 for dogs), we expect to spay/neuter a minimum of 526 animals. We will give priority to large dogs, females, and feral/community cats. In addition the cost for FERAL CATS is lower, i.e., \$35 of which \$25 is covered by the grant and \$10 by the Colony Caretaker. It also includes the rabies vaccination and pain medication. The only requirement is that feral cats must be brought in traps and will be ear tipped for identification. Depending upon how many of the cats are feral, we will be able to spay/neuter even more above the baseline.

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

SVHS currently sterilizes all of the animals entering our facility. With this grant to supplement our fundraising activities, we can help many more eligible low-income owners/caretakers who cannot afford the for-profit veterinary clinics or even the charges at the low-cost clinics, especially when there are multiple animals in a household. These vouchers will add a minimum of 526 neutered animals. With planned fundraising by SVHS and support from North Florida PAWS, Inc., we will be able to help needy owners/caretakers on an ongoing basis.

Methods

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

Owners/caretakers must be receiving government assistance not exceeding 150% of the Federal Poverty levels from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food stamps, Medicaid, or SSI (Supplemental Security Income). The adult pet owner/caretaker's name must match the name on qualifying documentation presented with the application. Dependent children in receipt of government assistance alone do not qualify.

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

We routinely receive requests from eligible persons asking for help to get their pets spayed/neutered. We will distribute flyers (English and Spanish versions) in places frequented by low-income persons and families including health departments, libraries, Head Start, churches, etc. Local radio stations, TV stations, and newspapers will help us advertise through PSAs, Press Releases, and interviews. Social Media for SVHS, specifically our Facebook Page and Website, and our Quarterly Newsletter "TAILS" will prominently feature the SNAP program and FAF information. Animal shelters and rescues in the service area will be provided flyers, applications, and FAF brochures to distribute within their communities. We expect supporters and members to help us spread the word via their social media outlets and posting flyers for us in their businesses and appropriate public locations.

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

Our volunteers are experienced working with diverse cultures and are available to help owners/caretakers with completing forms, translation for Spanish-speaking residents, transportation needs, or other problems that occur. SVHS can reach out to our various resources to assure every eligible owner/caretaker in need can get their pets sterilized.

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.

SVHS staff or volunteers who can help with transporting pets will use their personal vehicles and be required to have animal handling experience, auto insurance, current drivers license, and sign a liability release form. Volunteers without animal handling experience will be paired with experienced transporters to receive on-the-job training.

Veterinary Services

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

All surgeries will be performed at "South Georgia Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic" in Thomasville, Georgia, only 20 miles north of the Florida border. They currently serve all the North Central Florida counties in our target area. Their fee under our SNAP program includes a free rabies vaccination (\$10 value) if due, a physical examination and pain medication.

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
South Georgia Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, Inc.	425 Covington Avenue	Thomasville	GA	31792	229-236-7297	<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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>

Range for Female Dogs

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:

Rabies vaccination, physical examination and pain medication are included with the surgery. No additional fees are charged except for optional items listed above or medications dispensed to treat complications such as antibiotics or additional pain medication.

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

Applications will be submitted to SVHS with documentation proving eligible government assistance. Once accepted, the approved Voucher is issued to the owner/caretaker with a letter of instruction for making their appointment(s). The vouchers will have an approval section, signed by the Project Manager, with a special identifying stamp so the Clinic will now it is a legitimate voucher. There will be a 60-day expiration date to assure vouchers are timely used. 30-day extensions may be approved on a case-by-case basis for legitimate reasons.

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

South Georgia Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic is a highly successful, full-time, high-volume spay/neuter clinic with a staff, including two full-time veterinarians, fully capable of accommodating all of the surgeries authorized by our voucher program.

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

SVHS will maintain a running log so that, at any given time, we know which vouchers have been issued, which have been used, and which have expired. Upon expenditure of funds, we will have all data required to complete the final report to Florida Animal Friend.

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
Dowling Park: Advent Christian Village (a Senior Retirement Community)	The management of this large senior retirement community in Suwannee County will support and promote this program to the residents with pets.
Gadsden County Animal Control	The county animal control will promote the program to their citizens in need.
Gadsden County Times	The local newspaper for Gadsden County will help promote the program through press releases and PSAs.
Hamilton County Animal Services	Animal Control is carried out by a full-time Animal Control Officer. The position has recently been filled and she will help promote the program to residents in need in the county and the 3 towns.
Jefferson County Animal Services	The Jefferson County and Monticello City Animal Services work together to serve their community and will promote the program to the citizens they serve.
Jefferson County Humane Society	This no-kill shelter in Monticello serves all of Jefferson County and will promote our program to the citizens they serve.
Jefferson County Journal and Monticello News	These local papers in Jefferson County, published by Greene Publishing of Madison County, will help us promote the program through press releases and PSAs.
Live Oak City Animal Services	In Suwannee County, ACO Mary Taylor in charge of the City of Live Oak's animal shelter will promote the program to city residents.
Madison County Animal Control	Animal Services is under the Madison County Sheriff who fully supports this program. Sheriff Harper is committed to animal welfare in Madison County.
Madison Courier & Enterprise Recorder Newspaper	This local newspaper's circulation includes Madison and Hamilton Counties and will help us promote the program through press releases and PSAs.
Monticello City Animal Control Services	The Monticello City and Jefferson County Animal Services work together to serve their community and will promote the program to the citizens they serve.

Name	Level of Involvement
North Florida PAWS, Inc.	PAWS supports our organization and is committed to our spay/neuter assistance program (SNAP) by making donations from their fund raising activities and assisting with special client needs such as transportation, Spanish-speaking interpreter, and publicizing our voucher program.
Riverbend News	Formerly the Suwannee Democrat newspaper, located in Live Oak, Suwannee County, and serving Suwannee and Hamilton counties. Support through press releases and public service announcements.
Suwannee County Animal Shelter	The animal shelter and staff function under the County Sheriff and will promote the program to their residences 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.

SVHS has implemented SNAP (Spay neuter Assistance Program) to help low-income pet owners and TNR caretakers who cannot afford the prices at private veterinarians and even the low prices at low-cost clinics. The criteria and provisions are the same as those contained in this grant request. Events and other fundraising activities will be held specifically to fund the SNAP program. North Florida PAWS has committed to helping to raise additional funds to support this program on an on-going basis.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 263 **Dogs:** 263

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

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.):

Optional services owners wish to purchase; including vaccines and microchip.; are to be paid directly by the owners/caretakers. Post Op medications required due to surgical complications such as antibiotics or additional pain medication are not included. All administrative costs for advertising, printing, postage, etc. will be paid out of SVHS general funds.

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

SVHS and North Florida PAWS will conduct on-going fund raising activities to sustain this Subsidized Spay/Neuter Program as described herein after the FAF grant funds are expended.

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

66%

Timeline

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

Projected start date: 09/01/23/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/24

Unexpended funds

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

Requests for extensions

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

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

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

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

Through on-going fundraising activities and directed donations, we will continue this subsidized program with South Georgia Low-Cost Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic. In addition to the commitment from North Florida PAWS to help with raising funds and helping clients with special needs, we will partner with any animal welfare organization, business, and community organization, to help us raise funds and promote the voucher 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.**

We already display FAF Brochures in our reception and office area. We will include the promotion of Specialty License Plates along with ongoing "thank yous" in our publications (flyers, press releases, PSAs), in our social media (Facebook and Website), and quarterly newsletter "TAILS."

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

7