

Grant ID: 2178

Title of Proposal: Targeted TNR for Better Neighborhoods

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: University of Florida Foundation

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Shelter Medicine Program at UF

Website Address: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu>

Person Submitting Proposal: Dr. Julie Levy

Position: Professor of Shelter Medicine

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: levyjk@ufl.edu

Agency Head: Dr. Cynda Crawford

Agency Head Email: crawfordc@ufl.edu

Organization Business Address: 2015 SW 16th Avenue

City: Gainesville

State: Florida

Zip: 32607

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-258-6658

County: Alachua

Cell: 352-258-6658

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/01/1980

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 07/01/22 **End:** 06/30/22

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,037,202.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,188,799.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 7 Part Time: 1

Number of Active Volunteers: 125

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 98.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? I was a founding member of the board of directors for Florida Animal Friend and developed the inaugural grant application procedures.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2021 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1862	2019	Targeted TNR for Better Neighborhoods	Funded
1962	2021	Targeted TNR for Better Neighborhoods	Funded
2178	2023	Targeted TNR for Better Neighborhoods	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
Not applicable	(state agency)

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.
- 3678 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- Stray/lost pet intake
- Foster program
- Wellness services to understand pet owners
- Volunteer program
- Owner surrendered animals
- Food bank
- Cruelty investigation
- High volume spay/neuter clinic
- Lost and found program
- Behavior counseling
- Enforcement of ordinances
- Full service wellness clinic

Adoption program Disaster services**Give additional background information on your organization's programs as they relate to this application and the qualifications of the personnel who will be in charge of this program. Show that you have the capacity to carry out this program.**

The Shelter Medicine Program was founded in 2008. The feline spay/neuter program was founded by Dr. Levy, who is board-certified in veterinary internal medicine and shelter medicine. Dr. Levy has performed multiple studies of community cat management and served on the committee that developed national guidelines for spay/neuter standards of care. Dr. Levy leads a team of veterinarians and veterinary students who perform spay and neuter surgery at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

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 College of Veterinary Medicine offers a course VEM5342 Community Cat Management every semester to teach responsible and humane approaches to managing free-roaming cats, taking into consideration animal welfare, neighborhood wellbeing, public health, and conservation. As part of the course, students perform high-quality high-volume spay neuter for community cats. Students also volunteer to perform thousands of spay/neuter surgeries for community cats in the TNR program. These services are provided free of charge to community residents, although donations are welcome and help sustain the program.

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

Cats: 3678 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Alachua County
Total human population in target area:	279,238
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	19.1%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	84618
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	69810
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	46540
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1007
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1341
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	67
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	189
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We believe that is an accurate representation.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Cat overpopulation is believed to be primarily due to unowned stray and feral community cats. Each spring, kitten season overwhelms our local shelters and rescue groups, with a spike in intake in kittens found outdoors, many of them under-aged and without mothers. This uncontrolled cat reproduction creates nuisance and welfare concerns, even when they do not enter the shelter system. The primary source of dog overpopulation appears to be unintended reproduction of owned dogs and the relinquishment of juvenile and adolescent large-breed dogs. Our local housing shortage and rental restrictions are a large reason for dog relinquishments.	
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 is a nonprofit spay/neuter clinic at the local humane society, but it has been operating at reduced capacity since the pandemic. Even though these low-cost services, these are still out of reach for many residents, especially those that are caring for multiple animals. The veterinary school offers low-cost spay/neuter for pets at rescue groups. Local veterinary clinics offer full-price spay/neuter but are booked out for months due to the general veterinary shortage. The Saint Francis Pet Care Clinic provides spay/neuter for indigent pet owners, but has limited capacity due to operating part time and counting on volunteer veterinarians. Operation Catnip provides free spay/neuter services but is consistently over capacity and each month turns away many people who are requesting services.

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 S/N for humane society/county shelter when needed

Objectives

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

The objective is to have a positive impact on the most troublesome cat colonies identified by Alachua County Animal Services. This will be achieved through mass sterilization accompanied by nuisance mitigation steps and structured follow-up. Success can be measured by a decrease in citizen complaints and a reduction in the size and nuisance behavior of cat colonies.

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

This program will add 500 surgeries above what is currently provided.

Methods

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

Cats will be unowned stray and feral community cats referred by Alachua County Animal Services and other agencies.

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

Animal Control officers and dispatchers will report problem areas. Field officers carry literature about the community cat programs in their vehicles.

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

Animal Control Officers are in the field and meet with residents one-on-one where they live. Spanish-speaking officers are available. This provides an opportunity to respond to problems and complaints with an offer of services and education rather than enforcement and punishment. This builds community trust and more engagement. Personnel from the Shelter Medicine Program are available to assist in communication and logistics as needed.

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.

Residents usually transport the community cats that they trap to the clinic. If residents have transportation barriers or if there is a joint project with the shelter, officers may transport cats in their animal control vehicles.

Veterinary Services

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

Surgeries will be performed by Shelter Medicine Program veterinarians and veterinary students.

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
Shelter Medicine Program at UF	2015 SW 16th Avenue	Gainesville	Florida	32608	352-258-6658	<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="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked: Required Yes, Fee to client No

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
Examination	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

- Feline Leuk/FIV** 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:

We adhere to the 2016 guidelines for standards of care for spay/neuter. We also provide vaccines and parasite treatments to protect cats and public health. We also treat incidental wounds and illnesses present when cats are presented for spay/neuter. All of these are paid for by donations so there is no cost to the residents who bring the cats.

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
Alachua County Animal Services	Selection of cat populations for TNR. Ongoing collaboration for pet adoptions, shelter pet care, disease outbreaks, mitigation of complaints regarding free-roaming cats.
Humane Society of North Central Florida	Cross-referral of cats best suited for either adoption at the humane society or TNR. "Cat swaps" that transfer free-roaming kittens from the TNR program to the humane society and under-socialized cats from the humane society to the working cat (barn cat) placement program.
Operation Catnip	Loans traps and provides support to caregivers for capturing cats for the TNR clinic.

Other Information

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

The Shelter Medicine Program has a long track record of successful TNR projects and positive community relationships. We are confident that this targeted approach in collaboration with our local animal control agency will take this TNR project to the next level by focusing our resources where they are most needed and can have the greatest impact on community well-being. In addition to providing high-quality veterinary care, this project provides veterinary students with the experience and skills they need to continue this work after graduation.

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.):

Donated funds and supplies will be used to pay for vaccines, parasite medication, treatment of wounds and illnesses, examination, ear-tipping, and pain medication.

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

The Shelter Medicine Program is supported by grants and charitable gifts. The total cost for each surgical procedure is estimated to be approximately \$100 per cat when expendable supplies, medications, depreciable equipment, personnel, and overhead costs are fully allocated. The feline spay/neuter program has been supported at times by grants from Petsmart Charities, ASPCA, and the Petco Foundation. In recent years, national funders have decreased their focus on spay/neuter funding, and the COVID pandemic has reduced charitable giving overall. Funding support for our spay/neuter programs, especially for free-roaming animals, is more crucial than ever to avoid losing the momentum we've created in controlling reproduction and shelter intake of unwanted animals. Currently, the TNR program is supported by Petco Love and the Wiederhold Foundation, but these are insufficient to meet the local demand for spay/neuter services in our program.

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

25%

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.**

The Shelter Medicine Program has strong track record of acquiring grants and donations for ongoing operations. The faculty will continue to pursue funds to support the sustainability of this project. Donors are especially attracted to our surgery program because of the additional benefit of training future veterinarians in spay/neuter skills and in the problems of homeless animals. The program has attracted two endowments that will generate ongoing revenue in perpetuity for faculty salaries.

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 will promote this grant through social media posts (our Facebook page has over 10,000 followers) and the blog that is published on our University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program web page. We are also happy to contribute to the FAF blog. Both faculty members have had FAF license plates for many years (Dr. Levy's says TNRDR).

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

6