

Grant ID: 2156

Title of Proposal: Fix the Future

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)

Website Address: 6393 SW 52nd Street

Person Submitting Proposal: Linda C Norman

Position: Co-Founder

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: linda.norman@vocalforpets.org

Agency Head: Linda C Norman

Agency Head Email: linda.norman@vocalforpets.org

Organization Business Address: 6393 SW 52nd Street

City: Ocala

State: FL

Zip: 34474

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-289-0800

County: Marion

Cell: 352-895-3132

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 02/19/2015

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$773,539.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$790,256.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 11 Part Time: 4

Number of Active Volunteers: 75

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 1000.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 1 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1861	2019	Fix the Future	Denied
1902	2020	VOCAL Fix the Future	Denied
1984	2021	Fix the Future	Funded
2156	2023	Fix the Future	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
Bill Findlay	Director
Kate Rengel	Director/Co-Founder
Lauren Carpenter	V.P/ Co-Founder
Linda Norman	President/ Co-Founder
Michelle Eller	Director
Patti Hitchcock	Secretary
Rick Hughes	Director
Rob Carney	Director

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

65 cats and 145 dogs were admitted.

50 cats and 116 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

1 cats and 2 dogs were euthanized.
2089 cats and 1564 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.

Our clinic has vetted 12,000 plus animals since inception in late 2019, most of which have been surgery. We also offer wellness and dental services. Our lead veterinarian Dr. Natalie Isaza was the Shelter Medicine professor at UF for 16 years teaching veterinary students. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge.

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

We are currently spaying and neutering 3600 PLUS animals annually for the public and other animal organizations. We contract with 5 veterinarians to provide services in-house at our Vocal Clinic and Community Resource Center.

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

Cats: 2089 **Dogs:** 1564

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Marion County Florida
Total human population in target area:	385,915
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	13.6
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	116944
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	96479
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	64320
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	4084
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2599
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	218
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	297

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Due to the lack of shelter capacity in this area, we have a significant increase in stray animals. This contributes to the overpopulation problem.

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

Free-roaming cats as well as dogs and cats that reside in low-income households.

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?

The county has an SNR program, Sheltering Hands has a clinic for cats only, PawPrints is a low-cost SN clinic, and of course our own clinic at VOCAL. The Humane Society is also building a clinic. Based on the demand that we experience all are needed and then some. Our outreach program to low-income pet owners has shown us that they are also the most likely to take in strays despite their lack of resources. We support their veterinary needs as well as supplies and pet food because there is a severe lack of shelter space in our community. We are a no-kill community with no open-admission shelters.

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)?

Vocal has positioned itself as a resource in the area for people who love their animals but may not have sufficient resources for spay-neuter surgery or basic, humane veterinary care. This includes colony caregivers as well. Our goal is to expand our outreach to under-resourced pets to stop overpopulation at its source. We have identified the need through our Project Feed program, low-cost vaccine clinics, and TNR programs.

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

This will be an additional 525 surgeries above our baseline of 3600.

Methods

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

We are already serving a low-income population through our Project Feed program. Sterilization is required to stay in the program. Additionally, we know our customers that utilize our vaccine clinics and many are on fixed incomes or low incomes. Our TNR program requires an application that gives us the information we need. All of our programs are tracked for effectiveness.

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

We use social media to reach our audience as well as flyers handed out during food pickups and vaccine clinics.

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

For cat colonies, we send out trappers to people who need help trapping and transporting. With owned cats, we will loan out cat carriers and in some cases traps if they can trap themselves. Cultural hurdles can be challenging, but we are developing relationships with people through our Project Feed program and monthly vaccine clinics and they trust us.

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.

Yes, the TNR program involves trained trappers who use their own vehicles to trap. We have a liability waiver that they have to sign and a training program. We just hired an experienced trapper to coordinate this program and take charge of all training

Veterinary Services

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

We have 5 veterinarians that contract with our clinic to perform surgeries. Our head veterinarian Dr. Natalie Isaza works with us 3 days a week, Dr. Greg Wolf works with us 1 day a week, Dr. Valerie Love 1 day a week, Dr. Lynn Samatulski on Saturdays and Dr. Kat Fleck performs surgery 2 times per month. These are our spay-neuter surgeons.

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	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>

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:

Ear tipping will only be required for feral and community cats, not owned. Pain medication is included with all of our surgeries. All community cats are treated for fleas and parasites without charge. Parasite medication is only required if visible on the animal. Internal parasite medication is optional.

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 Alliance from Tip to Tail	CATT is a coalition of concerned groups addressing the feral cat problem. VOCAL is a participating clinic. We sterilize and vet the cats at no charge.
Faithful Friends	We provide spay/neuter and vetting services at reduced pricing. They receive food from our food warehouse.

Name	Level of Involvement
Marion County Animal Services	We partner with MCAS annually to provide free spay-neuter days for the public. Currently, we partner with them and others to address the overwhelming amount of community cats waiting to be trapped and sterilized. They receive food from our food warehouse.
Quality of Life Rescue	We provide spay and neuter services at reduced prices and they participate in our food warehouse program
Rapsallian to the Rescue	Animals are spayed & neutered at VOCAL at reduced pricing. They receive food from our food warehouse program.
Sheltering Hands	We partner with them in a community-wide effort to address the overwhelming numbers of community and feral cats waiting to be trapped and sterilized
wanda Cares	We provide spay-neuter services to Wanda Cares and they also pick up food from our warehouse program

Other Information

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

We will work with our Project Feed clients, vaccine clinics, and TNR programs to identify need and encourage spay-neuter. We require sterilization to qualify for our food program and offering it without cost ensures compliance. Our TNR program works with colony caregivers to ensure that we sterilize all of the cats in the area.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 450 **Dogs:** 75

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.):

ear tipping is done while the cat is still anesthetized and is cost-neutral. Vaccines are encouraged but not required except for rabies. The owner will pay that but if a hardship exists we have a fund for essential expenses. We will also address any veterinary issues that exist for community cats such as URI, mangled body parts, eyes, etc. at no charge and will endeavor to find a safe place for recovery. If friendly a cat who has undergone treatment can be put into our adoption program.

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

We have a fund called Fix The Future that we fundraise for year-round This fund subsidizes the cost of surgeries for under-resourced animals in need.

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

85%

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.**

We are consistently expanding our ability to do more for the community through our fundraising efforts. We just held our annual gala The 7th Annual Furball "Change in Full Bloom" on Feb. 25th and raised funds to help fund our shelter and outreach programs. Through good stewardship, careful planning, the three founders foregoing salaries, as well as sound business principles we remain debt-free so that we can follow through on our promises to help animals and the people who love them.

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.**

This grant will be promoted on social media. We have a significant following on Facebook and we also have a quarterly newsletter that is sent to 5000 plus people.

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