

Grant ID: 2231

Title of Proposal: Spay Putnam

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$23,720.00

Check Payable To: Animal Rescue Consortium

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Animal Rescue Consortium

Website Address: arksaves.com

Person Submitting Proposal: Diane Kelley

Position: Volunteer Grant Coordinator

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: dianekelley123@protonmail.com

Agency Head: Virginia Delgado-Oakwood

Agency Head Email: arksaves@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 1952 S US 17

City: Crescent City

State: Florida

Zip: 32112

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 386-559-4610

County: Putnam

Cell: 352-895-2695

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 26-0856331

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 08/06/2007

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/23 **End:** 12/31/23

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$105,011.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$102,767.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 4

Number of Active Volunteers: 7

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 140.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Published information about successful prior Florida grants, online research, solid reputation for supporting animal welfare

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

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

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2231	2024	Spay Putnam	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 Low cost clinic, rescue, fost

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

Name	Title
Alison Thorton	Vice President
Cynthia (This) Belden	Board Member at Large
Dan Dodge	Treasurer
Jeanne Scott Mayer	Board Member at Large
Linda Gillen	Secretary
Melissa Higginbotham	Board Member at Large
Virginia Delgado-Oakwood	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

45 cats and 77 dogs were admitted.

37 cats and 65 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

1 cats and 1 dogs were euthanized.

210 cats and 141 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.

This is a diversely qualified organization with a President who is focused on becoming the county's key "go to" organization to improve overall animal welfare through an array of low-cost services and educational programs. Our board members, with their broad experience base, is, and will continue to be, a key supporter and enabler for success. Our organization has also successfully executed low-cost spay and neuter grants from other organizations and received positive feedback on our outcomes. We have a track record to manage these type grants and deliver as promised. While responsibly staffed with volunteers we also have two contracted veterinarians who are currently performing low-cost wellness services such as testing and vaccinations. We have worked with other grantors to expand our reach of services in the community and have established ourselves as an enabler of animal wellness and affordability.

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

As funds allow, we do provide low-cost spay/neuter vouchers through collaborative relationships with county veterinarians. We have, at times, provided free services (as we can afford) to individuals who are the poorest and in greatest need. We have also provided, through collaborative veterinary relationships, emergency medical care for poor members of the community as well as abandoned pets. In fact, in 2023, 271 spay/neuter vouchers and 126 vaccine vouchers were provided. We also assisted pet owners with emergency veterinary services totaling over \$7,800 and donated 2,200 pounds of pet food for the poor of the community through the South Putnam Christian Service Center. We share the above information on multiple programs because they are truly linked together. As a result, providing ARK with this grant will enable us to offer other low- or no-cost support as needed for these animals.

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

Cats: 180 **Dogs:** 91

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	The target area is Putnam County Florida which includes the key cities of Palatka, East Palatka, Pomona Park Crescent City, Welaka and Interlachen. The primary zip codes are 32149, 32112, 32178, 32181, 32131, 32177 and 32193
Total human population in target area:	74731
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	22.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	22646
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	18683
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	12456
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	300
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	660
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	60

Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	60
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. Our target population is consistent with the above. NOTE: The above number of animals handled by animal control are estimates based on knowledge gained from collaborative experiences with the organization on an ongoing basis.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Affordability is cited as the primary reason why citizens do not spay/neuter their pets. Not only is the poverty level in this county twice the rate of Florida overall, but the household income in this county is 36% less than the state overall meaning residents have a disproportionate challenge in their ability to afford to spay/neuter their pet. In fact, the average pet-owned household in Putnam county has 1.7 dogs/cats. Considering an average retail cost to spay/neuter of about \$350 each, this means these families would have to allocate nearly 2% of their annual net budget to spay/neuter their pets. Further, large-breed dogs are particularly expensive terms of spay/neuter retail services. Many citizens simply cannot afford this. The current economic situation only magnifies this challenge. The other key challenge is the feral cat population which is exacerbated by the rural nature of this county.	
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? Currently there is no ongoing low-cost spay and neuter capability in this county. There is; however, intermittent availability of low-cost vouchers by very few organizations, including ARK, that help with affordability. However, this is extremely limited and cannot meet the demand.	
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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large mixed-breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats. EAR-TIPPING IS REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Objectives

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

Our objectives are as follows: - Reduce the population of free-roaming cats; - Ensure sensitivity to large breed and pit-bull type breed dogs; and - Enable spay/neuter services for citizens who would not otherwise be able to afford these services. Specific anticipated results include: - Spay and neuter at least 40 feral cats. Using data from www.feralcatproject.com, we expect this will reduce at least an additional homeless cat population of 1,176 - Spay/neuter 150 dogs and 300 cats owned by the poorer citizens in this county. This will be accomplished through the use of low-cost vouchers such that the owner has a limited responsibility of a copay.

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

This increases the baseline by an estimated 490 total animals. This also means that over 10% of owned dogs/cats, that would not otherwise receive these services due to affordability, will benefit from this program. It is also noted that, based on our experience with our low-cost vaccine clinic, many financially underserved pet owners have more than one dog/cat in need of these services. This is common in these type communities and will provide increased efficiency in increasing the number of service above the baseline.

Methods

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

This will be provided to any pet owner in Putnam county Florida requesting the service. Research and our past experience with low-cost spay and neuter services indicate that the vast majority of those who utilize low-cost services are those who cannot afford retail veterinary services. Further, nearly 1 in 4 residents in this county maintain income at or below the poverty level.

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

This will be advertised on our website (ark saves.com), our facebook page, the Palatka Daily News, signs at our location and through direct contact with partner organizations and groups.

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

We will provide our key advertising in Spanish as well as English. We will also maintain lower cost agreements with several veterinarians in the county for voucher use to reach a broad customer base.

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.

No. The client is responsible for providing transportation of their pet.

Veterinary Services

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

We maintain collaborative relationships with multiple veterinarians in the county (e.g., East Palatka Health Center, Flagler cats) and have used this process successfully with other voucher programs.

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
Animal Health Center of E. Palatka	354 Hwy 17	E. Palatka	Florida	32131	386-328-0327	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flagler Cats	2550 N. State St.	Bunnell	florida	32110	386-503-4250	<input 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="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>

Range for Male Dogs	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$125.00

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 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

*** = REQUIRED by grant**

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for any of the above services, except for mandatory pain medication, ear-tipping and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

Regarding ear tipping, this is a required service by Flagler Cats who will be performing many of the feline services. Finally, if 3-year rabies vaccination is requested, the fee will be \$15. The above \$10 noted is for 1-year vaccinations.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

If so, how will you assure utilization of the program?

We have extensive experience with voucher programs and we will track each service (location, fee, optional testing/services, etc.). There is currently a pent-up demand for these services, so we anticipate full use. We will also keep information in the forefront of community outreach efforts to ensure utilization goals are met.

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

The average veterinarian can perform an average of 25+ spay/neuter services in a full 8-hour shift. Further, we have used insight from prior voucher grant programs for our estimated capacity planning and will coordinate closely with the facilities once the grant decision is made.

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

Yes, we will be able to report not only total numbers, but how many were dogs/cats, the related fees for each and service locations, etc.

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
Friends of Welaka	Their awareness of this program will allow them to provide leads to our organization for services.
Putnam County Animal Services	Provide community members in need of these services with our contact information and social media sites for information and scheduling.
Save Animals from Euthanasia (SAFE)	With our collaborative relationships, they will provide leads to our organization.
South Putnam Animal Network (SPAN)	Because they receive many request for assistance for low-cost spay and neuter voucher support, and cannot meet that demand, they will provide leads to our organization for those services.

Other Information

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

Animal Rescue Konsortium (ARK) also currently provides low-cost testing and vaccination services by our own contracted veterinarians at our facility. Therefore, customers benefiting from this spay and neuter voucher program also have the connection with us to provide other needed medical services for their pets as well. With our daily contact with citizens with the services we currently provide, we are well-positioned to ensure the full success of this program. Further, we are concurrently in the process of attempting to secure a separate grant for a fully equipped surgical trailer to allow us to have a sustained capability for this community for low-cost spay/neuter procedures. While the grant is still pending, we have been successful in securing funding commitments from the county and some of the city commissions for funding portion that would not be covered by that grant. As a result, with the FAF grant, this will help solidify our role in the community as a "go to" source for spay and neuter services moving forward. Finally, according to Spay Florida, Putnam county of one of approximately 30% of Florida counties without an ongoing low-cost spay/neuter capability.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 340 **Dogs:** 150

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$23,720.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$49.00

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

We purchase our vaccines and microchips at a rescue group discount rate and fund this through community donations and grants as available. Further, we received a grant from Petco Love for feline FVRCP and canine DHPPV vaccines.

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

We continue to secure other available grant funding to enhance our mission and will make these added services available to these clients as well. We are also fortunate to receive continued support from the community for donations and conduct 2-3 fundraising events annually to supplement these offerings. NOTE: We added the \$2 rabies vaccination available via this grant to approximately 25% of animals serviced by this grant (or \$245.).

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

55

Timeline

PROJECTS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL GRANT FUNDS ARE RECEIVED, usually before September 1.

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: 06/01/24/ **Projected end date:** 05/30/25

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.**

Our organization is currently actively working to solidify a grant for a fully equipped spay and neuter surgical trailer to provide services to this county. While the grant has not yet been secured, we do have the support of some community officials to provide support funding for the capital costs not covered by the grantor. This is contingent upon securing the grant. Further, we will continue to provide spay/neuter vouchers to the extent which we can afford to do so.

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 the grant on our website: ark saves.com and our facebook page in addition to our local newspaper and a banner posted outside our facility. We will also communicate the availability of these services through our veterinary partnerships.

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

Unknown