

Grant ID: 2230

**Title of Proposal:** Operation Fix It Florida

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$24,849.20

**Check Payable To:** Cape Coral Animal Shelter

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corp

**Website Address:** www.capecoralanimalshelter.com

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Liz McCauley

**Position:** Executive Director

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** liz@capecoralanimalshelter.com

**Agency Head:** Liz McCauley

**Agency Head Email:** liz@capecoralanimalshelter.com

**Organization Business Address:** 325 SW 2nd Avenue

**City:** Cape Coral

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 33991

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-573-2002

**County:** Lee

**Cell:** 239-850-2020

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**EIN:** 81-3632884

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 12/06/2016

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,112,726.72

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,675,171.12

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 22 Part Time: 2

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 350

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 685.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Well known in the animal welfare world in Florida.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 1

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1976	2021	Spay/Neuter Assistance for CCAS	Denied
2230	2024	Operation Fix It Florida	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
Alvaro Sanchez	Director
Gloria Tate	Secretary
JoAnn Elardo	Founder and Board President
Lyz Spires	Director
Nancy Monteith	Director
Pamela Aubuchon	Vice President
Susan Thrasher	Director
Tami Cindrigh	Treasurer

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**413 cats and 616 dogs were admitted.**

**401 cats and 561 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**9 cats and 10 dogs were euthanized.**  
**348 cats and 468 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.**

In just four years of operation, the Cape Coral Animal Shelter has far exceeded our expectations and is currently planning a major expansion to begin in the Fall of 2024. We operate a full service, state of the art veterinary clinic with over 6,100 clients. We have a full-time Director of Medical Operations with over 13 years of general practice and emergency veterinary experience and several part-time veterinarians. Our clinic team consists of a Director of Operations who oversees the care of both shelter and public animals and manages the clinic and has over 17 years of experience in the veterinary field. We have a Processing/Intake Manager with over 16 years of experience as a veterinary technician who oversees the care of the shelter animals. Our clinic has six full-time and one part-time veterinary technician with many years of experience in the field. Our executive director has held executive positions in shelters in Florida and Pennsylvania, holds an MBA in Business with a concentration in Non-Profit Leadership, and has worked in and around shelters for over 22 years. In Fall of 2024, CCAS will break ground on a 19,000 square foot facility adjacent to our current building and move all shelter operations into this new building. Our existing building will be converted into an expanded clinic to accommodate more clients, services, expanded hours, and additional veterinarians. Projected completion of this project is Spring of 2026.

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

While expanding our shelter is necessary to satisfy the needs of our rapidly expanding population, we know that offering free and low cost spay and neuter is the ONLY way to deal with the crisis we are facing here in Florida with the number of unwanted dogs and cats. Through our shelter operations, we have identified key areas throughout the state where offering free and low cost spay and neuter is vital and will make the greatest impact in the number of unwanted animals. With additional funding, we will be able to provide this service where it is needed the most. We have secured vets and vet techs who will assist us with this outreach. We have the physical resources through our full-service clinic. As a young organization trying to expand, our only need to accomplish this is additional funding that can be used directly for spay neuter services for the public.

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

**Cats:** 696 **Dogs:** 934

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):</b>	Counties of Lee, Collier, and Hendry
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	1214269
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	15.2%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	367961
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	303568
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	202379
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A

<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
In our four years of operation, we have identified target areas within the counties listed where spay/neuter is desperately needed. In Lee County, for example, Lehigh Acres has been identified as an area where large breed dogs, community cats, and indiscriminate breeding of dogs has created an extreme overpopulation of animals. This is one of our target areas. We have also targeted Immokalee in Collier County and Clewiston in Hendry County as areas where the underserved population lacks the resources for spay/neuter services. Big Cypress Indian Reservation in Hardee County is another targeted area where we have seen not only a lack of resources but a logistic problem with residents who cannot drive to clinics located over 45 minutes away. We would go to these target areas to provide the spay/neuter services in coordination with local animal control agencies.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
We believe the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation are the uncontrolled and irresponsible breeding of dogs and cats and stray/lost animals who have not been spayed/neutered. We believe targeting the underserved areas mentioned will significantly reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in these areas.	
<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>	
There are very few resources currently available in our target areas and logistics creates a problem as well. Many pet owners do not drive so getting to a clinic is a challenge. The global shortage of veterinarians creates a barrier for spay/neuter. From the Seminole Indian Reservation in Immokalee alone, our shelter took in over 100 puppies over the course of one year. These puppies were not bred on purpose, but the result of owners who did not have the resources to spay/neuter their animals. In several situations, we spayed mom and returned her to the owners once the puppies were altered. These are pet owners who want to do the right thing and alter their pets, but due to lack of transportation and a clinic onsite, they find it challenging.	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Large mixed-breed dogs</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats.</b> <b>EAR-TIPPING IS REQUIRED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	

## Objectives

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

We expect to see a decrease in the number of animals surrendered to rescues and animal control facilities in our target area. We will work with those organizations to determine exact target areas such as Lehigh Acres, Immokalee, Clewiston, and the Seminole Reservation to advertise our free services and attract those who need it most to take advantage of the clinics. We will also provide free spay/neuter through our clinic located in Cape Coral to serve Lee County residents. This should be easy to track and quantify the impact our clinic is making in the target areas.

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

All sterilization surgeries we perform with the funding from this grant will be in addition to the surgeries we already perform each year in both our full-service veterinary clinic and our shelter. We have performed three free spay neuter clinics over the last year funded by a donation from one of our board members. This was a trial for us to make sure we could successfully execute clinics and we did. Over 30 animals were altered at each of the three clinics. We know with additional funding we can make an even greater impact in the target areas.

## Methods

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

Criteria used to determine eligibility for the program will be determined along with input from the municipal shelters and rescues we work with in the target areas. We believe by targeting these specific areas we will automatically be helping those most in need of our services. We do not want to impose any income level restrictions because we want to make sure everyone who has an unaltered pet that wants to get it spayed and neutered gets it done no matter what their financial circumstances.

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

We will work directly with municipalities and animal control services to help us advertise the program. This process was extremely successful with our trial spay/neuter clinics, and we believe this process, along with direct marketing to the community through social media and word of mouth, will help us get the word out to the communities we are targeting.

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

Where appropriate, we will provide transportation of animals to and from our target area to the clinic we are working with. We also have access to a mobile spay/neuter unit we can take directly onsite in the areas where this is necessary. All literature will be bilingual where this is helpful, and we have several bilingual staff members and volunteers who will be onsite for each clinic.

### 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.

For clinics that require transportation of animals by our shelter, we will be using our full-size van where animals will be safe and in crates that are securely fastened to the sides of the van. The van will be driven by a licenses and insured staff member or volunteer, all of whom are named on our automobile insurance and covered under our staff and volunteer liability coverage. All transport for clinics will be overseen by our Director of Operations, Melanie Waite. During her tenure at Gulf Coast Humane Society, Melanie oversaw hundreds of spay/neuter transports throughout Florida without incident.

## Veterinary Services

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

We currently have four veterinarians that have committed to assist us in offering free spay/neuter surgeries, both at our clinic and at on site mobile clinics.

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	\$38.55	\$38.55

<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	\$0.00	\$48.77	\$48.77
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$81.41	\$81.41
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$99.91	\$99.91

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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping*</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>Microchip</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" 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

**\* = 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:**

We will do on-site spay neuter clinics in the underserved areas we targeted. We would, however, use vouchers to assist clients in our geographic area that have the ability to come to our clinic that is centrally located in Cape Coral. We will distribute and follow up through our clinic staff.

**Is this a voucher program?** Yes

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

We will monitor any vouchers distributed through this program through our clinic software and staff. Staff will follow up to make sure the vouchers are used.

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

We have four veterinarians that will perform spay/neuter surgeries at our clinic or at any on site clinics we schedule. We have enough veterinary technicians to cover any amount of spay/neuter surgery we schedule. Our clinic books multiple days per week to offer spay/neuter surgeries and each veterinarian can complete 25-40 surgeries a day. We do not anticipate a capacity issue.

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

Yes.

**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
Clewiston PD/AC/Hendry County	Clewiston Police Department/Animal Control/Hendry County—Coordinate spay/neuter clinics with CCAS based on target areas where assistance is needed the most.
Collier County Domestic Animal Services	Coordinate spay/neuter clinics with CCAS based on targeted areas where assistance is needed the most.
Dr. Piper Center for Social Services	CCAS has done free spay/neuter in collaboration with Dr. Piper Center for the community of Dunbar in Lee County and would like to continue to do so with funding from this grant
Haven On Earth (H.E.A.L.)	Haven On Earth Animal League (H.E.A.L.)—coordinate TNVR and Community Cat spay neuter clinics in Lee County.
Lee County Domestic Animal Services	Coordinate spay/neuter clinics with CCAS based on targeted areas where assistance is needed the most.
Local Newspapers	The Breeze Newspaper, News Press (Fort Myers/Naples), and Florida Weekly—CCAS will do press releases informing the public of our work through the Florida Friends Grand Funding.
Relief Veterinarians	In addition to our two veterinarians who consistently perform spay/neuter surgeries for us (Dr. Fisher and Dr. Vaththam, letters attached), CCAS has five relief veterinarians that are willing to perform spay/neuter services at our clinic or at off-site clinics to enable us to execute our commitment to this grant.
Seminole Indian Reservation Animal Control	(Collier and Hendry County)—Coordinate spay/neuter clinics for residents of the Seminole Reservation.
Suncoast Community Center	CCAS has done free spay/neuter and vaccine clinics in collaboration with Suncoast Community Center in North Fort Myers in Lee County and would like to continue to do so with funding from this grant.

## Other Information

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

During our first four years of operation, the Cape Coral Animal Shelter and Veterinary Clinic has proven to be a leader in animal advocacy in Southwest Florida and beyond. Despite opening our doors just four days before Covid-19 shut down the world, two years of global pandemic, and direct hit from CAT4/5 Hurricane Ian in 2022, our shelter and clinic has thrived. With over 4,300 adoptions and a clinic clientele of over 6,200 clients, our organization is making an incredible impact in our community. Our shelter assists municipal shelters and rescue groups from the panhandle to Homestead, and many areas in between. Because we see firsthand the overwhelming number of unwanted animals, we know it is vital to address this problem where it starts—with more resources for spay/neuter. We want to be a part of the solution, and with additional funding from this grant, we will be able to make a huge difference where it makes the greatest impact. We have the knowledge, the experience, the resources, and the passion to execute this plan.

## Budget

### **Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 170 **Dogs:** 200

**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$24,849.20

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$68.00

### **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 will provide an exam, microchipping, and ear tipping at our cost.

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

We have a donor funded "Have a Heart Fund" that will cover the cost of the exam and microchipping because we believe both are important.

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

82

## 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:** 09/01/24/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/25

### **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.**

As our organization continues to grow, we will have increased assets and funding in reserve for spay/neuter and other animal welfare programs that benefit our community. The city of Cape Coral and surrounding communities have been extremely generous and supportive of our mission as evident through our continued success despite some very challenging circumstances. CCAS is poised to be financially sound and will continue to be a leader in animal welfare throughout the state of Florida.

### 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.**

CCAS has a huge presence on all social media outlets and will promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate via all those outlets. We will promote grant funding and the sale of the license plates each month in our newsletter. There will be links to purchase the plates on our website and we are tossing around ideas on some sort of contest our followers can enter to see how many plates we can get people to purchase, all while thanking Florida Animal Friend for the support. We think that would be fun and a great promotion! We will do a press release and we anticipate The Breeze and Newspress will pick up the story of our grant funding. We often get coverage on the local news stations as well. We have many followers and a fantastic marketing company that assists us with all promotions.

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

**Unknown**