

Grant ID: 2225

**Title of Proposal:** Expanded Targeted TNR - Fort White Census County Division

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$18,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Cats Alive Inc

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Cats Alive Inc

**Website Address:** catsalive.org

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Chontelle Brown

**Position:** President

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** chontelle@catsalive.org

**Agency Head:** Chontelle Brown

**Agency Head Email:** chontelle@catsalive.org

**Organization Business Address:** PO Box 242

**City:** Fort White

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 32038

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 386-222-2989

**County:** Columbia

**Cell:**

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**EIN:** 84-3430066

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 10/01/2019

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/22 **End:** 09/30/23

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$13,345.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$21,467.00

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

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 4

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 35.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous grant recipient.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2022 Year(s) denied/incomplete:

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2051	2022	Keeping Cats Alive	Funded
2225	2024	Expanded Targeted TNR - Fort White Census County Division	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
Chesney Brown	Vice President/Secretary
Chontelle Brown	President/Treasurer
Susan Sellers	Director

**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.**

**326 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.**

Cats Alive was founded in 2019 to target the unserved area of Fort White. Our program is donation based and no one is turned away due to their inability to pay for services. We are partnered with Operation Catnip of Gainesville who provides all of our medical services, as well as, The Humane Society of North Central Florida who provides intake for friendly cats and kittens who cannot be safely returned to their caregivers. Our President, Chontelle Brown's, family are well-known and trusted in the area. She has 29 years' experience in managing large clinical revenue budgets, developing clinical practices and data analysis.

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

Our program provides low-cost and no-cost spay-neuter surgeries for outdoor cats in the Fort White area. We are donation based, caregivers donate only if they are able, but a donation is not required for services as we believe all cats deserve the same high quality medical treatment. We remove all barriers which have prevented caregivers from having their cats sterilized by providing trapping assistance, transportation and financial assistance when needed.

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

**Cats:** 303 **Dogs:**

Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):</b>	Fort White Census County Division (CCD), Columbia County - all of zip code 32038, Columbia County portions of 32643, portions of 32024 and 32025
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	16,928
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	18.9
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	5130
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	4232
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	2822
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	0
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	NA
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	270*
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	NA

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

We believe the population of outdoor cats is higher than indicated in the calculation because our program has already sterilized 1600 cats from our initial smaller targeted area of zip code 32038 (107.1 sq miles). With our proposed expansion into the larger Fort White Census County Division (CCD) area (193.5 sq miles), this area has not yet been supported by our program or any formal spay-neuter program, but we regularly receive calls for assistance. We feel this area will have a higher percentage of unsterilized outdoor cats. Our area is rural and located at the southern-most part of the county, 30 minutes away from the animal shelter. Historically, residents have not traveled this distance to surrender animals and have instead kept them, allowing them to reproduce. Our target area's population of residents 65 years old and over is about 20% higher than the entire county and about 10% higher than the state which is a contributing factor. Many of our caregivers are in this age range and we have found they are more likely to feed and care for cats that show up at their homes yet lack the ability to trap and transport the cats for surgery. \* The euthanasia figures represent data for January - July 2022, annualized. This is the last

data provided which is consistent with previous reporting methods. The county shelter changed software in 2022 and then underwent a transition of management of Animal Enforcement in 2023.

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

Our area continues to lack adequate access to low-cost/no-cost spay-neuter services. While our program has worked diligently to reduce the number of unsterilized cats, we continue to find pockets with higher cat populations and we still have previous sites which need to be completed. Through micro-targeting, we have made progress, however, our goal is a 100% sterilization rate for the caregivers we provide services for. We plan to accomplish the same results in our proposed expanded target area.

**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 no spay-neuter clinics in our target area, nor are there any low cost spay-neuter clinics in our county. The nearest low cost spay-neuter clinics are located 30 minutes away in neighboring counties.

**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. EAR-TIPPING IS REQUIRED  Other

## Objectives

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

This investment will provide immediate impact by providing 400 spay-neuter surgeries for our expanded target area. This investment will allow us to provide access to low-cost/no-cost spay-neuter surgeries for an area which has no current program.

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

Previously we have only provided TNR services for our smaller target area of Fort White. While we will continue to target and micro-target within this same area, this grant will allow us to expand beyond our previous borders into immediately adjacent areas to include the entire Fort White Census County Division (CCD) who are pleading for assistance. By having grant funds available, it will allow us expend more effort on trapping and sterilizing cats.

## Methods

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

All outdoor cats in the target area are eligible with permission of the caregiver or property owner, and the commitment of the caregiver to continue feeding.

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

We will advertise on social media, with postcards (mailed and left at residences and businesses), on our website and through word of mouth. We will also use step-in 'yard' signs to place at entrance and exits points of our micro-targeted areas – this will help reach those who do not use social media, smart phones and/or computers. We will also provide in-person education and training sessions for residents in the target areas.

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

Our program provides trapping assistance and transportation of cats when needed. We remove all barriers for the caregivers - physical limitations, transportation and financial. Our volunteer team includes a Psychology graduate who provides guidance on assessing situations and effectively implementing solutions relating to literacy levels and varying socio-economic backgrounds. Our volunteers are lifelong residents of the area and have a well regarded reputation in the community with the resources to help bridge any gaps to build relationships and connections with caregivers.

**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.**

Our program provides transportation in climate-controlled vans with temperature monitors. Cats are required to be confined in an approved trap for the duration of their time with us. Our volunteers are trained to safely handle trapped cats and to properly transport and provide care for them. Caregivers sign a liability release.

Veterinary Services

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

We are partnered with Operation Catnip of Gainesville to provide all clinical services for outdoor community cats. They have agreed to continue providing these services and have capacity to accommodate the additional surgeries.

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
Operation Catnip of Gainesville	912 NE 2nd Street	Gainesville	FL	32601	352-380-0940	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<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**  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:**

The full fee for each surgical package is \$60. The \$15 not covered by the grant will be subsidized by Operation Catnip from their general funds. We provide microchips at no charge as an additional layer of protection against euthanasia for cats sterilized by our program. For caregivers who will transport cats to clinic, we will ask for a \$10 per cat deposit to help deter no-shows. If this \$10 deposit is a burden for the caregiver and will prevent a cat from being sterilized, the deposit will be waived by our program.

**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
Columbia County Board of County Commissioners	The Board of County Commissioners fully endorses and supports our program.
Humane Society of North Central Florida	The Humane Society of North Central Florida provides intake into their adoption program for friendly cats and kittens when returning them to the TNR site is not the best option.
North Florida PAWS	North Florida PAWS is a past grant recipient of FAF. They provide low-cost spay-neuter surgeries for low income residents in neighboring counties. We work collaboratively by referring qualified residents to their program when it is appropriate. They support our program by referring caregivers who reach out to their program and are from our target areas.

## Other Information

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

All cats served by our program have caregivers who love and feed them. Many of the cats are those who wandered into their caregiver's yard - left unaltered, the population quickly grew. Though the caregivers love their cats and hated seeing them suffer, without a low-cost or no-cost option for care, they felt hopeless watching their cats and kittens suffer and often die. Our caregivers are extremely grateful for our assistance and through the relationships we have built, they have developed full trust in us and rely greatly on our program. Our partner clinic, Operation Catnip, has capacity to provide all additional spay-neuter surgeries. Without our program, there is no viable option for spay-neuter of outdoor cats for the residents we serve.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 400 **Dogs:** 0

**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$18,000.00

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$45.00

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

Costs for exams, vaccinations, parasite treatment and other services will be subsidized by Operation Catnip from their general funds. Microchips have been previously donated.

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

Our program depends heavily on donations from private donors, along with our fundraising efforts, as donations from our caregivers support only 25% of our total expenses. In addition to our previous Florida Animal Friend grant, we received smaller grants from two other funders in our previous fiscal year.

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

64%

## 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:** 08/16/24/    **Projected end date:** 08/15/25

### **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.**

We apply for and have received other grant funding. We will continue our fundraising efforts with private donors and events.

## 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 Florida Animal Friend on our website, on social media, press releases and at events.**

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

**3**