

Grant ID: 2204

**Title of Proposal:** Ending Suffering Through Spay and Neuter, TNVR and Education

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Feline Advocates of Leon County

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Feline Advocates of Leon County

**Website Address:** falccats.com

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Michelle Hartsfield

**Position:** President/Director

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** Mhartsfield1070@gmail.com

**Agency Head:** Michelle Hartsfield

**Agency Head Email:** falccats@gmail.com

**Organization Business Address:** 429 COLLINSFORD ROAD

**City:** TALLAHASSEE

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 32301

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 850-210-2559

**County:** Leon

**Cell:** 850-210-2559

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**EIN:** 831120353

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 04/17/2018

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 07/01/22 **End:** 06/30/23

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$275,397.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$176,469.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 0 Part Time: 8

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 28

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 240.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** We follow your program yearly.

**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
2204	2024	Ending Suffering Through Spay and Neuter, TNVR and Education	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
Becky Kring	Director
Cailee Geddis	Director
Gisele Poitras	Secretary
Gloria Alvarez	Director
Lindsey Viramontes	Director
Melissa Blake	Director
Michelle Hartsfield	President/Founder
Sara Jones	Vice President

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**1329 cats and 1 dogs were admitted.**

**1324 cats and 1 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**5 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.**

**1324 cats and 1 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 organization takes in cats and kittens from a wide variety of situations including transferring in kittens from our local shelters and intaking owner surrendered kittens. However, most of our animals come into our care as strays. They are brought to our attention by members of our community who contact us about found kittens outside. Our rescue intakes about 300 cats each year and these cats in turn, are adopted out. They are all spayed and neutered first and if needed receive any medical care. While we love our foster and adoption program, FALC recognizes that the solution to overpopulation and suffering is spaying and neutering cats and dogs, and more importantly TNVR of community cats. FALC has a TNVR program and has participated regularly in TNVR for four years. Falc practices Full Circle TNVR and Targeted TNVR as a community and global initiative to reduce feline overpopulation. Effective TNVR programs mean less homeless cats pouring into our local animal shelter and less suffering of cats living outdoors in poorly kept conditions. Our TNVR program consists of 2 committee heads and a team of about 10 trappers. The committee heads strategize and plan the trapping locations, trap use, and transporting to and from the vets. Our teamwork is organized and courteous. We have a staging building that is climate controlled for recovery of the cats. We have 3 different clinics that we work with monthly to perform the spays and neuters and our volunteers contribute to the transporting, staging and feeding. Falc's director oversees operations and makes sure that best practices are followed and used. Our program TNVR'ed approximately 1000 cats in 2023, including implementing an outreach program that educated and equipped 2 rural towns with the necessities for a TNVR program, both which are inundated with stray cats. Through other funding, we supplied new traps to these communities and financial support for their spays and neuters. The 1000+/- TNVR'ed cats do not include our foster cats which are also all spayed and neutered before adoption. Our foster program also has strict guidelines for age requirements, recovery and healing when it comes to their surgeries. No cat leaves our program unaltered. We also assist community members who are in need of financial assistance to spay and enter their animals on a case by case basis.

**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 organization does not perform spays and neuters nor operate a clinic that does so, but we work with the community in educating the importance of spaying and neutering as well as assisting in getting unaltered pets to the vet and financially supporting any community member that is in need.

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

**Cats:** 51 **Dogs:** 0

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):</b>	Leon County, FL
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	297,639
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	18.7%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	90194
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	74410
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	49607
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1716
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2274

<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	250
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	422
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b> We do not believe the target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b> One of the main sources of dog and cat overpopulation in Leon County is uncontrolled breeding. It is known that 80% of kittens born annually are born outdoors through community cats. These unaltered and free-roaming cats often live in large colonies. They reproduce rapidly, and each intact female cat can produce 15-20 kittens per year. These kittens then must fend for themselves outside or are brought into municipal animal shelters. Kittens under the legal adoption age (8 weeks) flood our local shelter but cannot stay there and require immediate placement with a rescue or foster. These kittens keep rescues inundated year-round and stretch available resources to a maximum. Even with 5 rescues in our area working together to try to save as many kittens as we can, we cannot save everyone, and some kittens must be euthanized. By targeting the problem at the source and preventing these kittens from being born in the first place, we can make a large impact in our community. In addition to uncontrolled breeding, pet owners may not spay or neuter their pets, contributing to unplanned pregnancies and increasing the population of homeless animals. This lack of action on the owner's part may be due to lack of awareness and education, cultural differences, or simply irresponsible pet ownership or abandonment. Addressing these issues through education, outreach programs, accessible spaying/neutering services, and effective animal control policies can help mitigate dog and cat overpopulation in the area.	
<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> We have one spay/neuter clinic and one high capacity clinic that provides wellness and surgeries for low income residents in the target area. We are fortunate to have working relationships with both of them. The main barrier in our area is financial ability to afford spay and neuter and basic care for animals. Leon County, which contains the poorest zip code in Florida, 32304, has a high prevalence of low socioeconomic status residents. These members of our community often enjoy owning animals. They typically stumble upon these animals outside and want to feed and take care of them. We have encountered multiple colony caretakers and pet owners experiencing financial struggles or even homelessness. They do the best they can with the limited resources they have, but unfortunately the unaltered animals they care for continue to reproduce and amplify the quantity of animals in need. At best, this leads to an increase in the number of animals brought to our local shelter; at worst, this situation can lead to suffering if the animals develop medical issues that cannot be addressed and improved due to financial limitations. Due to the shortage of veterinarians, it is also difficult to acquire appointments to have animals sterilized. Spay/neuter clinics and programs may have limited capacity, leading to long wait times for appointments or difficulty scheduling surgeries. In addition, Some residents may not be aware of the availability of low-cost spay/neuter services or the importance of having their pets sterilized.	
<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 type="checkbox"/> <b>Large mixed-breed dogs</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats. 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)?**

In 2023, we spayed and neutered over 1000 cats which is a combined number of TNVR and Spay Neuter Assistance to community members. With the grant funds, our goal will be to increase that number of Spays and Neuters completed to TNVR community cats and assist socioeconomically challenged community members. We will set a goal to sterilize 500 additional stray, unaltered cats and kittens and we want to see a continued increase in our TNVR numbers (see other information section). Additionally, we want to help more community pet owners who cannot afford to spay and neuter their own pets. We document every animal we send to surgery with a set protocol of collected data, including animal origination source, location, outcome/return status, services provided, to mention a few. All surgeries covered by grant funds will be detailed, accessible and quantifiable through

our collected data. The other goal we will set is ultimately an effect from our initial goal. We will reduce, even further, the number of kittens born on the streets, kittens surrendered to our local shelter that are exposed to the possibility of euthanasia, and provide all the health benefits to cats and kittens as a result of spaying and neutering.

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

As a non-profit rescue relying solely on volunteers, fundraising, donations and grants, our actions and efforts are limited to our available resources. With this additional funding, we can spend 12 months not limiting ourselves to our previous set number of spays and neuters and TNVR because we have limited funds. Instead we can aim to increase our numbers by 50%, if not more.

## Methods

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

To be eligible to receive our assistance, the community cat caretaker or pet owner must be willing to allow us to spay and neuter all animals in the localized area or under their care. They must also be willing to abide by our "best practices" policies.

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

To address the low socioeconomic status zipcodes of our target area, the most effective form of communication will be door to door education/door hangers (bi-lingual) and word of mouth by attending neighborhood events and HOA's if available, to share education and information. The low SES residents may be the primary community members not aware of the resources available to them and if they don't follow our social media to receive information, they will need to have direct contact for education and awareness. In addition to the direct contact approach, we are fortunate to have a dedicated social media following that often rallies around us to help support the work we do. Local businesses also partner with us to promote what we do. We love sharing about our initiatives and grants on social media and by sharing our program on social media, more people can be aware of the resources available to have cats TNVR'ed in their neighborhood or their personal pets spayed and neutered through financial assistance available through the program.

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

These are barriers our existing program has already faced. We have found the best way to address these barriers is by leveraging our team's collective diverse background to come up with solutions. One of our TNR coordinators is actually a former social worker, and we often rely on her expertise to handle delicate situations. Transporting to and from vet clinics is handled by various volunteers and coordinated in advance. One of our clinics also offers a transport service to pick up and return up to 25 cats at a time for spay neuter surgeries. We currently have a once a month transport scheduled, but if approved for the grant, we will schedule a second one to work towards our goal of doubling our spays and neuters. We are fortunate that our team has several volunteers that can assist with transportation to and from community cat colonies or pet owners in need. When a situation we want to help with arises, we go visit the location. We do this to survey and assess the situation, get a head count on the number of cats in need, and begin establishing trust and rapport with the individual(s) who feed or own the cats in need. Our team will trap or collect the cats and transport them to our staging area. Once the kitties are fixed, have recovered, and are deemed healthy enough for return, our volunteers will transport them back. We keep in communication with the colony caregiver or pet owner the entire time and provide them with updates, so they are not worried about the status of their cat(s). We also keep in contact with them even after all the cats in their care are fixed, to educate them on how to monitor the health of their cats. We are also lucky that two of our TNR volunteers speak Spanish fluently. These volunteers are happy to serve as translators or mediators between us and the Spanish-speaking members of our community that we want to help. One cultural hurdle we have encountered is that the members of our community that we want to help do not believe in spay and neuter. When faced with this tricky situation, we rely on having open dialogue sharing the evidence-based practices we follow. We have often found that by taking the time to educate someone in a kind and nonjudgmental method, they often respond positively.

### **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.**

This project does not involve transportation of animals by anyone outside our organization.

## Veterinary Services

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

We have working relationships with the two spay and neuter clinics listed below already, and have fixed thousands of cats at their respective facilities. Both practices have an office manager that serves as a liaison between the clinic and the client, and we have made both aware of this grant opportunity and application.

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
South Ga Spay Neuter Clinic	425 Covington Ave	Thomasville	Ga	31792	(229) 236-7297	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tally Spay	5021 West Tennessee Street	TALLAHASSEE	FL	32304	(850) 692-3425	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
<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?
<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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$8.00"/>
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<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="\$10.00"/>
<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$5.00"/>
<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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>

**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:**

When we assist community pet owners with sterilization of their personal pet, due to financial hardship, we offer to perform other services, like vaccines, microchips, testing, etc but we request they contribute to the costs. Otherwise we do the basic required services and will offer a microchip at our expense to help in the future if the pet is ever displaced.

**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
Feline Fine Friends	Partners in TNVR.
Tallahassee Animal Service Center	Receives injured, unaltered animals and will treat for injuries or illness and alter them and return to us, ear tipped, to return to their home.

### Other Information

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

Our TNR program started out small in 2019 with only 27 cats TNVR'ed. In 2020, we jumped to 108 cats. By 2021, we did 143 surgeries and 2022, 222. Now in 2023 we have more than quadrupled that. We have had to maintain that number due to limited funds. Therefore the increase we have wanted to continue has had to be put on hold. We are in the process of enhancing our education and outreach program, which plays a crucial role in creating a community of people aware of their resources and the benefits of spaying and neutering. We will provide printed material to share with critical zip codes and CONTINUE to work closely with our commissioners in providing an understanding of humane practices throughout our local government.

**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.):**

1000 is doubling our previous number of spay neuter surgeries of our last years total. In addition to the cost of surgery, we will be paying for rabies vaccines minus the \$2 dollars allotted through the grant. Spay neuter assists for financially challenged pet owners will be offered a microchip at our expense if not able to pay on their own, and ear tipping is free. We also apply Bravecto or Revolution Plus to TNVR cats to assist with parasite control. Any extra costs not allotted by the grant funding will be covered by our own fundraising and revenue that our organization has already in place.

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

Annual Art Auction Fundraiser, Annual Garage Sale, Donations, Revenue from our used book store adoption center.

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

85

**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:** 07/31/25

**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.**

Our largest source of revenue is from our two adoption centers with one being a used bookstore and the other being a cat cafe. After overhead costs, all remaining funds are redirected to cover medical costs. These funds would be used as well to cover the increase in our spay and neuter surgeries. We will also utilize other grant opportunities like The Summerlee Foundation grant or Petco Love grant to find more ways to sustain the growth. And we will continue to fundraise annually and watch our fundraising revenue increase as it has been doing over the past four years, at a 100% increase rate annually. We also have wonderful donors who support our efforts financially on a regular basis.

### 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.**

**Promotional Materials from this grant will be posted on all three of our websites as well as all three of our social media pages. We have sites and social media for our organization and the two adoption centers that it operates. In addition to the initial announcement, we will promote the license plate promo material periodically throughout the grant program timeline with updates of our accomplishments because of the grant. We will do posts showing the kitties that we were able to fix and the community cat colonies we were able to help thanks to the grant. Additionally, at our two adoption facilities, we proudly discuss and display promotional material from our partners to our customers. Many patrons find us accidentally, or stumble into a facility. We take the opportunity to sprinkle in education regarding animal welfare and responsible pet ownership while they are visiting and we have their attention. We pride ourselves on educating our community to help people learn how to become improved pet owners as well as spay and neuter advocates.**

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

**Unknown**