

Grant ID: 2226

Title of Proposal: No More Litters

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Hamilton County Animal Control

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Hamilton County Animal Control

Website Address: Facebook: Hamilton County Animal Control

Person Submitting Proposal: Katie Rooney

Position: Grant Coordinator

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: katiejrooney@hushmail.com

Agency Head: Gary Godwin

Agency Head Email: coordinator@hamiltoncountyfl.com

Organization Business Address: 1153 US Hwy 41 NW, Suite 2

City: Jasper

State: Florida

Zip: 32052

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 386-792-6639

County: Hamilton

Cell: 386-855-5481

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 59-6000628

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$19,242,025.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$18,399,818.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 2 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 12

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 48.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Local animal welfare organization North Florida PAWS, Inc.

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
2226	2024	No More Litters	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):

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

36 cats and 362 dogs were admitted.

28 cats and 318 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

8 cats and 44 dogs were euthanized.

28 cats and 306 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.

Regarding number of dogs sterilized, 12 dogs were returned to owner intact. Sadly, very few animals taken into the shelter are reclaimed by owners. The Hamilton County government will manage the Grant for the 3-county service area: Hamilton County and neighboring Suwannee and Madison counties. Animal Control Officer Rosalie Bonney is directly responsible for the NO MORE LITTERS Spay Neuter Voucher Program with her supervisor County Coordinator Gary Godwin providing oversight. ACO Bonney is a trained and experienced Animal Control Officer recently hired from a Georgia city animal control. Both have made major improvements to the facility and the County is in the process of building a new animal shelter. Recently an organization "Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter" was established with a high priority being support for the Spay/Neuter program as well as other services.

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

The only program to assist the public is a cadre of donors who will pay one-half the cost of spay/neuter of pets belonging to low-income pet owners which was implemented this year. With this grant and the support of "Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter" we can greatly expand subsidizing low-income pet owners and feral/community cat caretakers.

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

Cats: 4 Dogs: 12

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Hamilton, Suwannee and Madison Counties
Total human population in target area:	76,766
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	22.7%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	23263
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	19192
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	12795
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A

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

The estimated population of cats and dogs in the target area is higher than the national average because this is a very poor rural region in North Central Florida. The identified counties average low per capita income of \$20,127, a high poverty rate of 22.7%, and a school drop out rate of 20.3%. The number and size of animal shelters and rescues in the area are underfunded and inadequate to meet the needs of the human and animal populations.

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

Big dogs, especially pit bull types, are very popular among the poorer citizens and they make up a high percentage of the dog population. There is a very large number of feral and community cats as well as owned cats. The vast majority of these intact animals are outdoors and often free roaming.

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?

Hamilton County has no veterinary or spay/neuter clinics available. Suwannee County has two veterinary clinics that offer low-cost spay/neuter services: 'North Florida Animal Rescue and Vet Clinic' in Wellborn and a small low-cost clinic 'Suwannee PAWS' in Live Oak. Our participating spay/neuter clinic, the 'South Georgia Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic' in Thomasville, GA (20 miles north of the Florida/Georgia border) also serves Florida 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)?

We expect to increase our subsidized spay/neuter surgeries by a minimum of 400 big dogs (especially pit bull types), owned cats, and feral/community cats with caretakers. Owners and TNR/community cat caretakers pay the \$10 fee for rabies vaccination only. Pain medication is included at no additional cost and there is no charge for surgical complications such as pregnancy, in heat, pyometra, etc.

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

Hamilton County Animal Control Services assures all adoptable cats and dogs, whether adopted or transferred to other rescues, are spayed and neutered. In addition, we have sponsors who pay one-half of spay/neuter surgery for low-income pet owners. The NO MORE LITTERS spay/neuter assistance program will vastly increase the number of owned pets and feral/community cats being sterilized, not only with grant funds but through additional fund-raising by the "Friends of Hamco Animal Shelter."

Methods

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

Pet owners must be receiving government assistance not exceeding 150% of the Federal poverty rate from SNAP Food Stamps, Medicaid, or SSI (Supplemental Security Income). Feral Cat Caretakers must commit to continued care for the cats and continue to spay/neuter all current and new cats in the colony. Community cat caretakers must commit to continuing care. Both must agree to periodic inspections.

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

We will distribute flyers in English and Spanish at places frequented by low-income families including health departments, libraries, Head Start, churches, etc. Press Releases to Newspapers and PSAs to radio and TV stations serving the target counties. Periodic posts in applicable social media groups, especially Facebook, which is very popular in this area. We use these sources for special events which is very successful.

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

Our volunteers and the newly formed "Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter" will help as needed to overcome barriers including transporting pets for recipients who are unable to drive, translating for Spanish-speaking residents, etc.

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.

Volunteer transporters will use their personal vehicles and be required to have experience handling animals, auto insurance, current driver's license, and sign a liability release form. The Animal Control staff may transport in their vehicle. All animals must be secured in kennels or traps. Volunteers who are not experienced in handling animals will be paired with an experienced driver while they learn required techniques.

Veterinary Services

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

All surgeries are performed by the South Georgia Low-Cost Spay Neuter Clinic in Thomasville, Georgia, which is only 20 miles north of the Florida/Georgia border and currently serves North Florida counties.

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 Georgia Low-Cost Spay Neuter Clinic	425 Covington Avenue	Thomasville	GA	31792	229-236-7297	<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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked: Required Yes, Fee to client No

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered	Fee to Client?
Examination	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
Pain Medication*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>

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:

Ear Tip mandatory for feral and community cats at no charge. There is no additional charge for physical examination, pain medication, or complications in surgery. Preventive vaccinations and procedures available at extra charge to the owners/caretakers.

Is this a voucher program? Yes

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

Applications are submitted to Hamco Animal Control and Services with proof of eligibility for approval. If approved, the Voucher number with details are entered in a database. The applicant is given their Voucher and Instruction Letter to make their appointment(s). Recipient submits approved voucher to the clinic at the time of appointment. The Clinic sends monthly invoices with submitted vouchers for payment. This serves as verification vouchers have been used. We continually have inquiries from pet owners and caretakers needing financial help to sterilize the animals. We are confident the program will be fully utilized.

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

The Clinic is a well established, highly successful, full-time, high volume spay/neuter clinic and has proven fully capable of handling all the surgeries approved under this grant.

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

A log will be maintained to document Vouchers issued and when they are redeemed. When funds are expended, we will have necessary data to complete the final report.

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 the Hamco Animal Shelter	As a support group to the Hamilton County Animal Control and Services, it will provide assistance needed to assure the spay/neuter program is successful, including volunteers, publicity, and additional fund-raising.

Name	Level of Involvement
Greene Publishing	Owner of Madison county newspapers will promote the program.
Live Oak City Animal Services	Located in Suwannee County, they will promote the program to city residents.
Madison County Animal Services	Animal Services, under the County Sheriff, will promote the program to the county residents.
North Florida PAWS, Inc.	Full support in all aspects of the program.
Riverbend News	This newspaper serves Hamilton and Suwannee County residents and continues to support animal welfare organizations and will promote this program.
Suwannee County Animal Services	Animal Services, under the County Sheriff, will promote the program to the county residents.

Other Information

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

The subsidized spay/neuter program targets low-income pet owners and caretakers who are unable to get their animals sterilized even at the non-profit clinics' lower prices. 'North Florida PAWS, Inc.' and the 'Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter' are committed to raise additional funds and make this program a success on an on-going basis.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 250 **Dogs:** 150

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$63.00

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

A rabies vaccination at \$10 is mandatory to be paid by owners/caretakers. All other vaccinations and services are at owners' expense. There are no additional charges by the Clinic for unexpected expenses due to medical complications, physical exams, pain medication, or ear tipping. All administrative costs such as advertising, printing, postage, gas, etc. are covered by the County.

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

Hamilton County Animal Control Staff, 'Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter' and 'North Florida PAWS, Inc.' will conduct on-going fund-raising activities to sustain the NO MORE LITTERS spay/neuter assistance program.

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

75%

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.**

This program will be sustained through targeted donations, events, and partnering with local businesses and organizations to carry out fund-raising activities. The 'Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter' will play a crucial role in assuring the NO MORE LITTERS subsidized spay/neuter program continues into the future.

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.**

Display Florida Animal Friend logo and contact information on all promotional materials, flyers, press releases, social media posts, etc. Distribute FAF promotional materials at all events, animal shelters and rescues in the target area, and supporting businesses and organizations. Promote purchase of specialty license plates especially among volunteers with "Friends of the Hamco Animal Shelter".

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

5