

Grant ID: 2256

**Title of Proposal:** Spay/Neuter Programs

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$16,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Humane Society of Collier County, Inc. d/b/a Humane Society Naples

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Humane Society of Collier County, Inc. d/b/a  
Humane Society Naples

**Website Address:** Humane Society Naples

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Kim Hanson

**Position:** Senior Philanthropy Officer

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** kim.hanson@hsnaples.org

**Agency Head:** Sarah Baeckler

**Agency Head Email:** kim.hanson@hsnaples.org

**Organization Business Address:** 370 Airport-Pulling Road N.

**City:** Naples

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 34104

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-643-1555

**County:** FL

**Cell:** 561-578-2731

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**EIN:** 59-1033966

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:**

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$7,670,279.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$9,077,678.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 71 Part Time: 10

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 844

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 1085.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** email announcement

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 4

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
89	2009	Hundred Healthy Hounds in Golden Gate Estates	Denied
1541	2006		Denied (not completed)
1842	2019	Spay/Neuter Supplies Funding	Denied
2014	2021	Spay & Neuter Community Care Program	Denied
2256	2024	Spay/Neuter Programs	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
Alicia Taylor	Director
Brad Jamison	President
Courtney Lehmann	Treasurer
Jared Mellein	Director
Josh White	Director
Megan Cotanch	Director
Robert Benedict	Director
Sharon Zuccaro	Director
Stacey Bulloch	Vice President

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**1621 cats and 477 dogs were admitted.**

**1482 cats and 381 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**44 cats and 10 dogs were euthanized.**

**1582 cats and 549 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.**

Humane Society Naples' has been recognized state-wide and nationally for its leadership role in SW Florida's humane services. In 2023, HSN was awarded a major year-long grant from the Best Friends Animal Society and Florida Leaders in Lifesaving to assist rescue groups in Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties to improve their lifesaving efforts - with the goal of helping them to achieve the 'no-kill' status we are so fortunate to maintain. Included in that grant program is assisting with spay/neuter operations that many of these shelters are not equipped to offer. Our capacity to carry out spay/neuter outreach results from our Mobile Veterinary Clinic (MVC), staffed by two veterinarians on our team with full support by qualified veterinary technicians. The MVC is charged with reaching remote areas of Collier County which are essentially "veterinary deserts," the closest veterinary services being 40 or more miles distant. Many of these areas also have a higher than average low-income population. In 2023, 57 community visits were conducted by the MVC. We treated 898 dogs and cats, including 349 spay/neuter surgeries with the MVC. We also provided 1,238 vaccines and 1,847 flea prevention medications via the MVC in 2023. Dr. John Morton is our Chief of Medical Services; Dr. Edna May Seymour is the lead veterinarian for the MVC.

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

We have two programs offering no or low cost spay/neuter services. SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) offers free or highly discounted spay/neuter surgery including rabies vaccination. In 2023, this program cared for 227 dogs and cats. The second program addressing this need is our community/feral cat program that provide free spay/neuter, microchip, vaccines, and flea/tick prevention to free-roaming cats in Collier County. With this program we sterilized 138 cats in 2023.

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

**Cats: 222 Dogs: 71**

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):</b>	34120
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	38,191
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	10.6
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	11574
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	9548
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	6366
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	492

<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	860
<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>	
no explanation is needed	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
<p>The most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the 34120 zip code area stem from a combination of factors. First, the area's vastness and its status as one of the largest zip codes in our county create challenges in providing accessible veterinary services, including spay/neuter procedures. This geographical challenge is compounded by the area's high rate of lost/found animals and owner surrenders, which are indicative of a broader issue of pet management within the community. There is also a prevalence of a large dog population in this community and we all know large dogs sit in the shelter the longest. These larger dogs are more likely to contribute to the overpopulation if not spayed or neutered. The lack of sufficient spay/neuter services, outside of standard full-priced veterinary offerings, directly impacts the overpopulation issue. Even for those willing or able to pay full price, the nearest veterinary services are more than 40 miles away. With limited access to any, and particularly affordable, spay/neuter options, pet owners may opt to forgo these essential services, leading to unchecked breeding and further contributing to the overpopulation problem. While we will certainly care for cats coming to us for spay/neuter service, our focus for this application in 34120 will emphasize large mixed breed dogs which, from this zip code, evidence twice the number admitted to the county animal control shelter than cats. Socioeconomic challenges play a significant role. With a poverty rate of 10.6% in an area housing a population of over 38,191 as of 2022 – a figure that has increased since – a significant portion of the community faces financial barriers to accessing pet care services, including spay and neuter procedures. The cost of these services at standard veterinary clinics can be prohibitively expensive for families living at or below the poverty line, leading to a higher likelihood of pets remaining unspayed or unneutered and contributing to the population growth. One of our local food pantry providers indicates that 34120 is their busiest distribution site, serving more than 700 families every week. Furthermore, the geographic layout of the area compounds this issue. For many residents, especially those in lower-income brackets, the nearest clinic offering spay/neuter services can be a 30 to 45-minute drive away. And many do not have transportation and public transportation does not allow pets. This distance not only adds travel costs but also makes it difficult for those without reliable transportation to access necessary services for their pets. These barriers significantly contribute to the ongoing challenge of pet overpopulation in the area.</p>	
<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>	
<p>Currently, the spay/neuter services available in the 34120 area are limited, primarily being carried out by SNIP Collier and our organization, with SNIP Collier focusing almost exclusively on community cats and mostly in another area code. This focus leaves a significant gap in services for dogs, particularly the large dog population that is prevalent in the area. Humane Society Naples, has conducted 671 spay and neuter surgeries through our low-cost programs for the community across the county, indicating a demand and a need for these services. We get contacted consistently for spay and neuter services from 34120. However, the existing resources are insufficient for several reasons: Limited Scope of Services: The current services are not enough to cater to the needs of the entire pet population in the area, especially considering the specific needs of large dogs that are less likely to be adopted and more prone to contribute to the overpopulation problem. Geographical Challenges: Given the size of the area, the current spay/neuter services may not be easily accessible to all residents, particularly those in more remote parts of the zip code. This lack of accessibility can deter pet owners from availing of these critical services. Community Awareness and Education: There appears to be a gap in community awareness and education regarding the importance of spay/neuter services. Without robust outreach and education efforts, the community may not fully utilize even the available services, let alone demand more. Insufficient Capacity: Even with our efforts and those of SNIP Collier, the number of surgeries performed indicates that we are only scratching the surface of the need within the community. The county shelter faces a lack of community spay and neuter programs. This further highlights this insufficiency and the urgent need for expanded services. To address the dog and cat overpopulation in the 34120 area effectively, there is a critical need for expanded and more accessible spay/neuter services, targeted community outreach and education, and collaborative efforts with other organizations to fill the current service gaps.</p>	
<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 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)?**

There were 860 dogs admitted to animal control shelter from 34120 in the last FY. The majority of these dogs have not been spayed or neutered. Our goal is to spay/neuter 100 females and 100 male dogs in the grant period.

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

Our program will spay/neuter roughly 25% of the number of dogs that last year entered animal control shelter from 34120.

## Methods

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

Eligibility for our spay/neuter program is determined primarily by residency within the 34120 zip code. Participants will be required to demonstrate proof of residence through a valid address. This targeted approach ensures that our resources are directed towards the community most in need, aligning with our mission to address pet overpopulation in this high-need area.

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

We plan to utilize a multi-faceted approach to advertise our spay/neuter program, leveraging both our Mobile Veterinary Clinic and our community outreach team. The MVC, already conducting wellness activities in the area, serves as a moving billboard, promoting our services directly to the community. Additionally, our outreach team will attend local events to further increase program visibility. To extend our reach, we will utilize a Google ads grant and engage our audience via our social media platforms, ensuring wide and effective coverage of our program announcement.

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

Our program is uniquely positioned to overcome barriers to access through the use of our Mobile Veterinary Clinic, which brings services directly to the community, significantly reducing transportation barriers. For those facing significant transportation issues, our network of volunteers can provide animal transportation services. Our staff, including bilingual members, reflects the diversity of our community, allowing us to communicate effectively and sensitively across cultural and language barriers. By engaging directly with community members and leveraging our strong community partnerships for clinic locations, we address cultural hurdles through education and dialogue, emphasizing the benefits of spay/neuter services.

### **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.**

While our primary mode of service delivery is through our Mobile Veterinary Clinic, which minimizes the need for animal transportation, we do have provisions for exceptional circumstances where a client cannot access our services. In these rare instances, our trained volunteers may transport animals to and from our Mobile Veterinary Clinic. All transported animals are required to be securely confined in crates to ensure their safety and the safety of our volunteers. Owners are required to sign liability waivers to protect all parties involved. Our volunteers are trained in animal handling to ensure they are well-equipped to manage and minimize stress for the animals during transportation. This comprehensive approach ensures the safety and well-being of both the animals and our handlers throughout the process.

## Veterinary Services

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

We have 6 veterinarians on staff, several of whom are experienced surgeons.

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.**

	<b>Amount Paid by Client</b>	<b>Amount Paid by Project</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>

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

	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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:**

Our MVC clients as well as our SNAP clients pay what they can, but it is usually a minimal amount. We will limit grants funds to only those services approved for expenditure on the grant agreement. Special Note: On our review copy of the proposal, the Microchip is not marked required; it keeps coming up blank or not available. Please know it is always required of all animals we serve.

**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
variety of community groups	We enjoy a level of collaboration with many varied groups in our target area, ranging from the sheriff's department and the county animal control shelter to local rescue groups and individuals and families with active concern for animals in their area. We have strong support from local media and our HSN social worker, who goes out with every visit of the MVC, has strong connections with area social service agencies. Our "grapevine" is strong and if we are funded, there is no question all our colleagues will actively promote getting these essential surgeries for the large dogs so ubiquitous in the target area.

### Other Information

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

As we noted earlier in this application, much of Collier County is challenged by "veterinary deserts." The County is so large and parts of it are so underserved that access to medical care for pets is virtually impossible. Launched in January of 2021, the Mobile Veterinary Clinic aims to bring free or reduced-cost medical care, services and information to people and pets in communities who are unable to access or afford these services. The MVC program delivers affordable wellness, prevention and basic care as well as surgical

services to areas of the County that otherwise would not have access to any vet care. There are no income qualifications for clients; instead, there is an honor system for payments with the expectation that people financially contribute what they are able to towards their pet's visit. (There is a \$10 minimum contribution per pet). Services include: Basic Wellness Exam Canine & Feline Vaccines Nail Trim/Ear Cleaning Anal Gland Expression Spay and neuter surgery and Preventatives (additional cost) We also go beyond just numbers to tell the whole story. Communities who often mistrusted animal "authorities" now see our MVC as a place to come for help without fear of losing their pet because the pet has not gotten care in the past and thus may be in poor condition. Families who might not have been aware of other programs at HSN or other community services now have access and information from our MVC counselors via Collier Cares and other information we have garnered about available social services. In 2023 HSN created a social worker position attached to the MVC who can reach out still further to assist families whose issues with their pets can sometimes be just the tip of the iceberg of problems needing attention. HSN has long had a strong commitment to community outreach and the MVC in its first two years of operation has exponentially increased our ability to act on that commitment.

## Budget

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

**Cats:** 0 **Dogs:** 200

**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$16,000.00

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$80.00

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

Whatever services or supplies not supported by your grant program but essential for the health and recovery for the dogs will be provided by HSN.

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

We have several dedicated volunteers and funders who annually provide major donations to support our SNAP and community/feral cat spay/neuter programs. We also raise significant general funds for operations in which are included spay/neuter surgeries.

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

23%

## 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:** 08/25/25

### **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 have identified a number of committed donors, both foundations and individuals, who are supportive of spay/neuter. We will feature special appeals and social media outreach during spay/neuter awareness month (February) and will ensure that at least one of our direct mail mass appeals speaks directly to the need for support for spay/neuter.

## 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.**

**About 19% of our staff have the FAF specialty plates. Not being able to order them online plus the cost is prohibitive to many of our employees. However, during spay/neuter awareness month in February, we will focus our marketing department on outreach via our PawPrints newsletter, website links, social media and special events where staff, volunteers and donors are gathered to publicize the availability and purpose of these license plates.**

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

**15**