

Grant ID: 2236

Title of Proposal: Rural and Low-Income TNR Outreach

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$24,975.00

Check Payable To: Operation Catnip of Gainesville, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Operation Catnip of Gainesville, Inc.

Website Address: ocgainesville.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Audrey Garrison

Position: Executive Director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: admin@ocgainesville.org

Agency Head: Zoe Haraden

Agency Head Email: Zharaden13@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 912 N.E. 2nd Street

City: Gainesville

State: FL

Zip: 32601

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-380-0940

County: Alachua

Cell: 941-720-4539

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 59-3522372

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 06/25/1998

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$838,933.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$947,272.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 11 Part Time: 9

Number of Active Volunteers: 100

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 200.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Dr. Julie Levy, our founder, was contributor to the FAF license plate legislative effort and served as grant committee chair.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
129	2010	Operation Catnip	Funded
285	2012	Spay More to Save More	Funded
1427	2014	Spay More to Save More	Funded
1678	2016	Rural Spay-Neuter Expansion	Funded
1775	2018	Spay Neuter Capacity Builder	Funded
1890	2020	Capacity Building Clinics	Funded
2034	2022	Community Cat Outreach Program	Funded
2236	2024	Rural and Low-Income TNR Outreach	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
Charles Goodwin	Director
Ching-ju "Jane" Lu	Secretary
Dr. Dr. Simone Guerios, DVM	Director
Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, DVM	Medical Director, Advisory Board Chair
Mandy Reed	Director
Zoe Haraden	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

226 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

221 cats and 0 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

31 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

7961 cats and 13 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.

Operation Catnip runs several programs, all based on reducing the community cat population and eliminating suffering due to lack of basic health care services. Our various programs include: the signature Targeted Community Cat spay-neuter clinics; the Kitten Shelter Diversion Program; Caretaker Support; Working Cat Placements; Critical Care Medical fund; Food banks; Deployments to underserved areas in collaboration with other rescue groups; summer Fellowships, Internships and Externships for veterinary students, and volunteer opportunities for veterinary students. Until two years ago, we used the clinical facilities at other organizations to stage our clinics. Now, Operation Catnip has our own, fully equipped building. This allows us to efficiently hold clinics any day of the week, effectively store and distribute traps for caregivers and the public, thus providing consistently reliable services to the entire community of free-roaming cats. Clinics are now held in our new building three or four days a week. Routinely 50 to 90 cats are sterilized during each clinic. In 2022 we altered a total of 7,116 cats, an increase of over 33% from 2021. Last year, 7,961 cats were altered, and we have the capacity to do even more. Our Medical Director is Dr. Elizabeth Fitzgerald, DVM. Liz has extensive experience in shelter medicine and most recently was the lead veterinarian at Alachua County Animal Care & Rescue. She serves our board in an advisory capacity. Dr. Simone Guerios, DVM, MS, PhD is on our board. She is the current holder of the endowed chair for the Grevior Shelter Medicine Community Outreach Professorship at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

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

Operation Catnip has been providing our North Central Florida region with free spay-neuter for community cats since our inception in 1998. Over 87,000 cats have been sterilized through our various programs. Our municipal shelter has reduced feline intakes to an annual, minimal number. Live release rates are now over 90%. We also serve the surrounding, mostly rural areas and they benefit from our lifesaving programs. We maintain a unique partnership with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, providing enhanced training to students in areas that are lacking in the traditional veterinary curriculum. This collaboration allows students to gain valuable surgical and clinical skills prior to graduation. All vet students are eligible. Students in large animal, wildlife, and even aquatics divisions at the UFCVM participate in our clinics. We know that community cats are prevalent wherever they ultimately serve.

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

Cats: 7961 **Dogs:** 13

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Alachua County, FL
Total human population in target area:	285,994
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	19.1
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	86665

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	71499
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	47666
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1405
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1421
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	115
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	125
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. We do not have any reason to believe that Alachua County might have significantly different statistics than those computed above.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: Unowned free-roaming cats represent a substantial portion of the total cat population in Alachua County. Programs aimed at reducing cat overpopulation must include provisions for neutering unowned free-roaming cats, and those efforts should target the general public, not just pet owners. This application will support our methods of providing additional assistance to those members of the public who care for the cats but for a variety of reasons are unable to trap and/or transport on their own.	
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? Alachua County has a few low-cost spay-neuter facilities or programs. But combined they are lacking in capacity and flexibility to meet the community's needs, especially for community cats. St. Francis Pet Care, Fix Them All and the Humane Society of North Central Florida offer services for both companion pets and community cats. They are all low-cost but the fees for community cat spay-neuters range from \$45 to \$100 per cat. There are no other low-cost options in Alachua and none of them are totally donation based offering free surgeries like Operation Catnip.	
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: <input type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Large mixed-breed dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats. EAR-TIPPING IS REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Objectives

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

There is insufficient surgical capacity in Alachua County to accommodate the demand for spaying and neutering. This is true not just for the community cats on which our program focuses, but the demand is not being met for companion pets in the region either. This grant will allow us to increase surgical capacity by bringing necessary assistance to those residents who care for the cats in their neighborhoods but lack the financial means and the physical abilities to trap and transport for required surgeries. There are no other life-affirming organizations in this North Central Florida region that offer humane programs exclusively for community cats. Our project will continue and expand the outreach started last year by providing direct spay-neuters necessary to expand capacity within Alachua County's rural regions. The areas most affected will be rural and impoverished areas outside of the City of Gainesville and those pockets of financial hardship exemplified by mobile home parks within populated areas. Without viable free spay-neuter programs, even low-cost services are prohibitive for most people in the area, especially when they are looking to spay-neuter multiple cats.

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

In the past year, our Community Cat Coordinator trapped and/or transported 717 cats, a little less than 10% of the total cats treated. The balance of the cats, 7,244 were brought to us by residents who had the ability to do so themselves. This is a small segment of our total reach in the region. The whole program relies on the combination of those who can trap and transport on their own while some are physically challenged and require our assistance. This expansion of the program will add 555 cats during the grant period. It is well within our capabilities to fulfill.

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

Operation Catnip recognizes that caregivers provide ongoing care for community cats. Consequently, our focus is the welfare of the cats, the caregivers, and the community through the humane control of free-roaming community cats. We do not place barriers to quality medical care and sterilizations as doing so would be counter-productive to our mission, resulting in fewer cats receiving the service required.

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

We educate the public on cat issues with flyers, door hangers, and several brochures depending on the type of program promoted in the area. All of these are in collaboration with our local municipal shelter. This request highlights the extension of programs that use enhanced caregiver assistance methods to reach more people and the cats in their care. This has resulted in an increased level of cats now coming to our clinics for services.

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

Operation Catnip directly addresses those barriers as part of our primary mission. In some cases, caregivers are not physically or financially able to trap and transport on their own as they are either elderly or handicapped. Where caregivers need assistance, trapping, transportation and return of the cats to their colonies will be provided by Operation Catnip staff, mostly our Community Cat Coordinator utilizing our own climate-controlled van that has been outfitted for the safe transport of many community cats in one trip.

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.

Most of the cats that come to our clinics are brought to us by their caregivers. Liability releases are signed by the caregivers upon intake. This planned expansion is part of our existing Community Cat Outreach Program.

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

All of the spay-neuter surgeries will be performed in-house.

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 N.E. 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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<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	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

*** = REQUIRED by grant**

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for any of the above services, except for mandatory pain medication, ear-tipping and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

Operation Catnip does not charge any fees or collect co-pays for our services. We do, however, request donations at point of service, but it is not a requirement for service. No cat is turned away due to inability by their caregiver to donate. The average donation over the past year has been about \$15 per spay-neuter. The current cost to deliver a spay or a neuter in the past year has risen due to increased costs for the consumables used for surgeries and labor costs. Our total cost per surgery is now \$70, including the rabies vaccination. This also includes \$10 combined for the FVRCP vaccination and an application of parasite control. Stripping out the FVRCP and Revolution which is not included in this request, we are proposing a cost to the grant of \$45 per surgery, net of average donations.

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
Alachua County Animal Resources & Care	AR&C shelter staff will help identify and refer cats for TNR services and work with our Community Cat Coordinator on community issues and education. Operation Catnip is a proud partner with AR&C and collaborates on all cat related issues. In addition, Operation Catnip takes unadoptable adult cats that cannot be returned to the field and places them in our Working Cats Adoption Program.

Other Information

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

The second part of our dual mission involves the active participation of veterinary student volunteers to perform many of the functions within each clinic. We have included a copy of our Annual Report of Activities for 2023 as part of this application. It notes several metrics but one that is relevant here is the number of spay-neuters that are performed by our students. Last year, 123 different students performed 5,321 of those surgeries. Our DVM Coaches oversee each surgery to ensure the High-Quality of the procedures. Students are not charged for this learning environment. You will also see the chart that details the rapid and sustainable decrease in feline intakes and rates of euthanasia at the local ACAR&C shelter. Even though Alachua County is clearly a no-kill sanctuary for cats, we need to maintain this high level of spaying and neutering if we are to continue to see these results going forward. We cannot afford to backslide in this pursuit.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 555 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,975.00

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.):

Examinations, FVRCP vaccinations, and parasite control are administered as appropriate to every cat coming through our clinic. The average cost per cat of \$10 for these items is part of Operation Catnip's internal budgeting and are not included in the grant cost proposed.

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

We do not have any other funding requests pending for the Rural and Low-Income TNR Outreach currently. We have received a few grants this year for our other programs, and some grant requests are pending or scheduled. The total clinic budget for 2024 is \$510,000. Of that, this Rural and Low-Income TNR Outreach is \$89,000, not including non-clinic staffing or vehicle expenses. We are contemplating using this program as our basis for the upcoming grant to Petco Love Foundation during their April cycle, but that is still TBD. If not, then we will apportion General Operating funds to the balance of this program.

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

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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.**

Spay-neuter for community cats is the cornerstone of our mission. To successfully maintain the mission, Operation Catnip has prospered and grown through our 26-year history, primarily through our local fundraising efforts. Local donations comprise most of the revenues to our organization, even as we have grown the mission and its needs. We believe that a thorough and robust fundraising plan combined with an organizational culture of philanthropy will sustain, expand, and scale our programs to effectively serve the community for the long-term. As an example of our local base, and a sign of the support we generate from those who know us best, Operation Catnip's participation in our Community Foundation of North Central Florida's annual Amazing Give Social Media fundraising event earned us over \$70,000 last year. The community in total raised over \$1,200,000 for local non-profit organizations during this 12-hour giving event held at the end of April. Operation Catnip had the second highest total number of donors during the event and the third most total donations. This accomplishment was out of 126 organizations participating, including many that are much larger. This is a continuing trend that our small, but scrappy organization has maintained during this annual event. We have always placed in the top five in both categories every year. These continuing results attest to Operation Catnip's local presence, acceptance, and ability to harvest financial support from our community.

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.**

Our programs offer multiple opportunities for display and signage. If provided with posters, we will place them in a stand-up frame at the check-in area where people congregate to admit their cats for clinics, for borrowing traps, and during discharge. We have hundreds of traps that are made available to anyone needing to trap cats for our clinics. Florida Animal Friends receives mentions in our social media postings. Our Facebook pages alone have over 17,000 followers who are treated every day to a new and informative post on upcoming events or helpful topics on the proper care for their neighborhood cats.

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

26