

Grant ID: 2229

Title of Proposal: City of Fort Pierce
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$12,000.00
Check Payable To: Operation S.O.S.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Operation S.O.S.
Person Submitting Proposal: Dr. Julie Kittams
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: info@operationsos.net
Agency Head: Brian Bohmueller
Organization Business Address: 9196 SE Karin St
State: FL
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 772-222-7717
Cell: 503-317-4247

Website Address: www.operationsos.net
Position: Executive Director
Agency Head Email: operationsosflorida@gmail.com
City: Hobe Sound
Zip: 33455
County: Martin
Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 27-3871496
Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 07/21/2011
Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/22 **End:** 12/31/22
Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$341,764.00
Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$338,444.00
Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 2 Part Time: 1
Number of Active Volunteers: 3

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 30.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Animal Friend License Purchase

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 0

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1832	2019	Okeechobee Public Spay Neuter Program	Funded
2072	2022	Unincorporated St. Lucie County Public /TNRV Spay Neuter Program	Funded
2229	2024	City of Fort Pierce	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
Brian E Bohmueller	President
Dr. Julie Kittams	Executive Director
Dr. Sara Matthews	Vice President
Holly A. Shearin	Secretary
Joanne Bury	Treasurer

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

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

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

2698 cats and 1242 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.

The Organization has been working in the Fort Pierce area for over six years, so residents recognize the mobile unit. We work closely with Tractor Supply's walk-in wellness Veterinary clinic, referring clients between each entity. We stepped away from partnering with City of Fort Pierce in funding the program due to the lack-luster Voucher program the funds were tied to, creating barriers to service. It is much more accessible to the public to have one-stop 'shopping'.

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 Organization currently funds the program for City of Fort Pierce residents. Clients pay \$25/cat and \$70/dog. This price includes the rabies vaccination.

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

Cats: 116 **Dogs:** 13

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	City of Fort Pierce, FL
Total human population in target area:	48,305
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	29%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	14638
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	12077
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	8051
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.

During the the last year, City of Fort Pierce has made little to no attempt to curb the pet population. They have funded a spay/neuter/wellness clinic but there is no movement towards establishing the facility. Second, the only other facility providing low cost spay/neuter has closed its surgery unit. There are simply not enough providers to meet the demand.

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

The primary source of overpopulation comes from the large number of households that cannot afford the local veterinary hospital pricing for spay/neuter surgery. The second most substantial source of overpopulation are feral cats in the absence of a functional, readily available TVNR program.

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?

City of Fort Pierce governance offers a 'voucher' program only for publicly owned animals. The only veterinary provider for this voucher program currently only applies the voucher to the surgical cost. Additional services (office call, lab work, IV catheter/fluids) are required for the surgery. Most clients cannot afford the entire package.

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)?

The goals: 1) Continue an in-place program in City of Fort Pierce 2) Continue a TNVR program in partnership with local shelters/rescues and private trappers.

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

This program will provide a drastic increase in the number of sterilization surgeries being accomplished for two reasons: 1) Affordability 2) Vastly more accessible services

Methods

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

Low-income clients are asked to show proof of enrollment in a federal program or last year's taxes. Programs we accept: WIC, Food Stamps, Disability, Medicare, Medicaid, Unemployment, Veteran.

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

We have a network of local advertisers in place that promote our current outreach dates including most significantly area Tractor Supply stores and local humane societies. These organizations have worked closely with us for years to promote our public program.

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

We work closely with other area Rescues/Shelters in addressing issues such as transportation. Our literature is translated into Spanish. We spend time reading aloud admission forms and go-home instructions to clients with literary challenges.

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.

Yes. Area rescues/shelters have their trappers bring animals for surgery and perform the releases. They utilize their personal vehicles under their own liability insurance for their own organizations.

Veterinary Services

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

We are the provider of services: Operation SOS.

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 SOS	9196 SE Karin St	Hobe Sound	FL	33455	772-222-7717	<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="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$140.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$140.00"/>

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 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"/>
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 type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

Feline Leuk/FIV Required Optional Not Available No Yes
County License Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Ear tipping* Required Optional Not Available No Yes

Microchip Required Optional Not Available No Yes
Other Required Optional Not Available No Yes

*** = REQUIRED by grant**

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

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

There will be no-charge to the client for TNVR services. The grant will be charged \$70/cat, including an ear tip and rabies vaccination.

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
Dogs and Cats Forever	Client referral
Tractor Supply	Direct client referral from the Veterinary Wellness Clinic inside the facility.

Other Information

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

Operation SOS is committed to finding a long-term solution to the lack of access to low cost spay/neuter services to City of Fort Pierce residents. Our organization supported City of Fort Pierce in opening its closed Animal Shelter through funding, donated professional services and volunteers. It is because of our organization the animal shelter is back to being an open-admission shelter. What has not changed is Animal Control continues to mass trap and euthanize feral cats despite a TNVR ordinance being in place. Leadership does not 'believe in' TNVR, and thereby directs Officers to euthanize even ear-tipped cats.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 200 **Dogs:** 43

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$12,000.00

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.):

Vaccinations (minus Rabies), microchips and e-collars are offered at the low-cost of \$10 for each product. Ear-tipping is part of the services we provide at our cost. We also take the time to lend TruCatch traps to public members willing to trap at no cost. Our largest expense outside of staff is fuel.

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

None

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

60%

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:** 08/15/25

Unexpended funds

Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project.

Requests for extensions

Requests for time extensions are discouraged and not often granted. If it is imperative to request an extension, such request must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. It is FAF's policy to seldom grant more than a 30-60 day extension.

Failure to submit reports and requests within the required time period will impact your agency's future grant applications.

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

***Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having sustainable plans including other grants, local donations and other services generating revenue enhances the chances of receiving this grant.**

As Fort Pierce grows, businesses are quickly moving in, driving up real estate values. This is attracting a more affluent public that moves from areas where TNVR and low-cost spay/neuter are part of the community fabric. Those people also tend to drive change through supporting donations.

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.**

Operation SOS will promote the Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate program through our website (www.operationsos.net), Facebook, Twitter and in our quarterly newsletter. Additionally, our mobile veterinary van will continue to display proudly its Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate.

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

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