

Grant ID: 2247

Title of Proposal: Spaying Putnam County Pets

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: SAFE Pet Rescue

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: SAFE Pet Rescue

Website Address: www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com

Person Submitting Proposal: Kirk Collier

Position: Volunteer

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: kirkcollier93@gmail.com

Agency Head: Kathryn Hawkins

Agency Head Email: safepets.neflorida@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: PO Box 840215

City: Palatka

State: Florida

Zip: 32177

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-460-0556

County: St. Johns

Cell: 386-983-2337

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN:

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/26/2008

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,165,212.53

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,199,876.96

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 8 Part Time: 12

Number of Active Volunteers: 75

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 900.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? First Coast No More Homeless Pets

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2018 Year(s) denied/incomplete: N/A

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1771	2018	Spaying Putnam County Pets	Funded
2247	2024	Spaying Putnam County Pets	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
Carole Mussoline	Vice-President
Don Hawkins	Treasurer
Kathryn Hawkins	President
Peggy LaRoach	Secretary

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

284 cats and 1281 dogs were admitted.

282 cats and 1278 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

5 cats and 9 dogs were euthanized.

280 cats and 1274 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.

SAFE Pet Rescue was formed in 2008. Its goal is to take the dogs and cats scheduled for euthanasia in local shelters. We take the animals and place them in foster homes and offer them for adoption centers. We operate a cattery and dog adoption center in St. Augustine and the Hollister Humane Society in Putnam County. We also transport pets to shelters in the Northeast and West where they have a better chance of finding new homes. We also operate two Neuter Commuters that we use to transport pets owned by residents in St. Johns and Putnam counties for spay/neuter surgeries. We take the dogs to First Coast No More Homeless Pets and the cats to Melrose Animal Hospital. SAFE has 20 employees and 75 dedicated volunteers. The director has a long background in animal welfare. SAFE has been running our low-cost neuter commuter for Putnam since 2008. We already have in place advertising, transport vans and experienced transport staff.

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 offer our Neuter Commuters to the public as a community service program. We have two transport vans operated by our employees. We schedule the surgeries, meet the pet owners with their pets at a central location, transport the animals and pick them up after surgery to be returned to their owners. The public pays \$50 for dogs to be fixed at FCNMHP and \$45 for the cat package at Flagler Cats. This past year we transported 280 cats and 1274 dogs for surgeries in our Putnam Neuter Commuter program. However, this really doesn't get at the problem in Putnam County. Putnam County is primarily rural and approximately 23.2% of the population live below the poverty level. These residents can't afford to pay for the surgery for their pets. Thus, their pets breed and the offspring frequently end up in the shelter. We have no separate funding to pay for these surgeries. Our funds come from the operation of our two thrift stores and donations which fund our adoption efforts.

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

Cats: 280 **Dogs:** 1274

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Putnam County, FL
Total human population in target area:	73,321
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	23.2
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	22219
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	18331
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	12221
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.

It should be noted that the euthanasia rate in the Putnam County shelter is so low is that it is almost entirely a result of our efforts and other rescue groups.

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

Pets owned by low-income people (mostly large dogs) and feral cats.

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?

There are no low-cost spay/neuter services in Putnam County. The only resources people have, other than private vets, are to take the pets to locations outside the county in Flagler or Duval counties or to use or neuter commuter services.

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 hope to spay or neuter approximately 500 dogs and cats owned by low-income Putnam County residents. (The exact number will depend on the mix of cats as opposed to dogs.)

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

We currently transport approximately 30 dogs each week from Putnam County to First Coast No More Homeless Pets and xx cats to Melrose Animal Hospital for surgery. With this funding, we would schedule an additional day for transport to each facility, if needed.

Methods

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

The pet owner would have to show proof of eligibility for one of the following programs: Food Stamps, Medicaid, MediPass, Health Ease, Healthy Kids, Kid Care, Sect. 8/Public Housing, WIC or SSI or provide proof that their income is under 150% of the poverty level.

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

We will advertise the program on social media, at our thrift store, and on the radio and through the Palatka Daily News newspaper. Putnam Animal Control will also let people know about the program. There are some county employees who do outreach who would also let low-income pet owners know about the program.

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

We provide the transportation from a central location in Palatka. We have volunteers who can also help with transportation and help with cultural hurdles.

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.

We operate two air conditioned vans and have crates that we use when transporting the animals. Our employees are trained and experienced in transporting pets.

Veterinary Services

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

We a long-standing relationship with First Coast No-More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville to sterilize the pet dogs and Melrose Animal Hospital for the pet cats.

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
First Coast No More Homeless Pets	6817 Norwood Avenue	Jacksonville	Florida	32208	904-425-0005	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melrose Animal Hospital	2638 State Road 21	Melrose	Florida	32666	352-475-1636	<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="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$108.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$108.00"/>

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>

HW Testing Required Optional Not Available No 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:

It is up to the owners to determine if they want to pay for additional services.

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
All local vets In Putnam	SAFE has long standing excellent relationships with all of the local vets in Putnam County. All understand the need for this and will direct clients in need to us.
Local radio stations	All run public service announcements telling people about our services.

Name	Level of Involvement
Palatka Daily News	Will provide information about our services being offered at no charge.
Putnam Animal Control	Will direct people needing our services to us and those turning in pups and kittens.

Other Information

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

Putnam County has a tremendous need for these services. Just two weeks ago, more than 200 dogs were recovered from an elderly lady who could no longer take care of them on her property. We cannot keep up with the numbers. Putnam County desperately needs a spay/neuter program focused on pet owners who cannot otherwise afford the surgeries.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 100 **Dogs:** 230

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$76.00

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

Any other expenses will be paid for by the pet owner.

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

Right now we have no other sources for funding other than private donations.

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

25

Timeline

PROJECTS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL GRANT FUNDS ARE RECEIVED, usually before September 1.

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with the final report submitted no later than September 1 of the following year.

Projected start date: 09/01/24/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/25

Unexpended funds

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

Requests for extensions

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

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

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

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

We will look for additional grants, seek local funding and try to work with the Putnam County government to provide funding.

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.**

SAFE will include with all of our public relations efforts that this was made possible by the Animal Friend License Plate. We will also advertise in our newsletter and on our social media and website.

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

Unknown