

Grant ID: 2222

**Title of Proposal:** The Feline Fix

**Agency Type:** Non-Profit

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Save Our Cats and Kittens, Inc.

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Save Our Cats and Kittens, Inc.

**Website Address:** www.saveourcatsandkittens.com

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Hannah Neville

**Position:** Grant Writer

**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** hannah@coastalgrants.com

**Agency Head:** Nancy Schimmer

**Agency Head Email:** nancy@saveourcatsandkittens.com

**Organization Business Address:** 498 Carmel Drive

**City:** Fort Walton Beach

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 32547

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 850-863-5756

**County:** Okaloosa

**Cell:** 850-865-6866

**Fax:**

### Agency Details

**EIN:** 59-3184216

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 06/12/1998

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/24 **End:** 12/31/24

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$582,845.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$619,476.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 5 Part Time: 8

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 142

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 22.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** SOCKS has known about this grant opportunity for several years.

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

**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2022 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2021

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

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1978	2021	Spay it Forward	Denied (not completed)
2058	2022	Spay it Forward	Funded
2222	2024	The Feline Fix	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
Dawn Montoya	Board President
Dr. Brian Ward	Board Member
Elaine Sheldon	Board Member
Jennie McKeon	Secretary
Jennifer Baldwin	Treasurer
Mallory Whalen	Board Member
Mallory Whalen	Board Member
Melissa Bahr	Vice President

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

**708 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.**

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

**0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.**

**0 cats and 0 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.**

SOCKS has previously received a small amount of funds from Okaloosa County in order to help local residents with a low-cost spay/neuter program. We are constantly receiving calls requesting assistance for low-cost spay neuter services, so we work regularly with local transport services to have these surgeries performed accordingly.

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

SOCKS did a low-cost spay/neuter program for \$25 for residents of Okaloosa County who are on financial assistance to spay/neuter. Additionally, SOCKS has an ongoing campaign to support funding low-cost spay neuter for residents in need of assistance. SOCKS also partners with a local restaurant to receive a percent of product sales that are then donated to helping local residents cover low-cost spay neuter services.

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

**Cats: 49 Dogs: 0**

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):</b>	Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	473,036
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	9.6%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	143345
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	118259
<b>Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	78840
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	N/A
<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>	
SOCKS believes these figures are accurate as there is a huge problem with cat overpopulation in our target area.	

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

SOCKS believes the most substantial source of cat overpopulation is residents not spaying/neutering their pets. Many people do not realize how frequently cats breed litters of kittens, and the counties do not have enough resources to address the root of the problem.

**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?**

Currently, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties all share one low-cost clinic in Baker, Florida. The capacity for this low-cost clinic far exceeds the demand for its services, and even SOCKS struggles to get one or two appointments every once in a while. Additionally, since the clinic is located in Baker, which many residents are too far away from and cannot access its services. SOCKS also recognizes the issues with the local vets having little to no appointment availability, so the spay/neuter transport becomes necessary when when are conducting TNR for our community. Since we are in a more rural area, there are more animals and less people to care for them. The general lack of awareness, cost, and lack of spay/neuter services often deter many individuals from having their felines fixed, which then creates more issues with cat overpopulation in our community.

**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)?**

SOCKS will utilize funds awarded to sterilize approximately 250 felines. Additionally, direct results from the Feline Fix project include sterilizations decreasing the total number of feral and domestic cats in the community, improving the quality of life for both residents and felines, educating the public on the importance of feline sterilization, and the ability to offer more affordable options for low-cost spay/neuter services to the public.

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

The Feline Fix project directly impacts the approximated 250 felines that will be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped. By sterilizing 250 cats, we are reducing cat overpopulation by a substantial amount. For example, the average female cat can have up to 280 kittens in her lifetime. By sterilizing 250 cats, we could prevent a potential 70,000 kittens from being born in the first place.

## Methods

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

Residents that qualify as low-income and are receiving disability or other government assistance (with proof) will have the co-pay fee waived for low-cost sterilization services. Otherwise, residents will pay a \$25 co-pay for the sterilization.

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

SOCKS will advertise the Feline Fix program through its social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok. Additionally, at all community and chamber events that SOCKS attends, we will promote the Feline Fix program as well as provide educational resources on feline sterilization to community residents.

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

SOCKS will address barriers to these services by addressing needs on an individual basis. We will go out of our way to ensure that all cats are properly cared for, and SOCKS will work with individuals on any barriers pertaining to transportation, finances, or other miscellaneous issues that residents can face.

**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.**

When necessary, SOCKS partners with other groups that already provide transportation to low-cost spay/neuter clinics. These groups provide the driver of the vehicles, and SOCKS delivers the cats in carriers to be transported. We sign a release form to the organization transporting giving them authorization to transport each cat. The animals are placed in a sturdy, hard-sided carriers of appropriate size to accommodate each cat. Each carrier has newspaper lining the bottom to absorb any urine or feces. The newspaper is replaced if soiled during transit. The carriers are strapped into the transport vehicle to avoid shifting during transit. The transport vehicle has air conditioning so that the animals have fresh air at all times. The safety and comfort of the felines is a priority to SOCKS.

**Veterinary Services**

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

SOCKS will work with Crossroads Animal Clinic, Northside Veterinary Clinic, Operation Spay Bay, Spay Neuter Impact Project (SNIPS), and Wiregrass Spay/Neuter Alliance to perform TNR on our community cats. Arrangements include but are not limited to: contacting the vet for appointment availability, scheduling appointments, owner/colony leaders are responsible for feline drop-off/pick-up at designated TNR pick-up site, and the feline is then returned back to its owner. All vets will ear-tip and provide pain medications during surgeries. SOCKS will provide microchips to any resident who requests on for an additional \$11 cost.

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
Crossroads Animal Clinic	601 Eglin Parkway NE	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32547	850-586-7696	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northside Veterinary Clinic	18 Racetrack Road NE	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32547	850-862-1005	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operation Spay Bay	3520 15th Street	Panama City	Florida	32404	850-215-1022	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spay Neuter Impact Project	7350 Hwy 57, Unit J	Vanceleave	Mississippi	39565	228-215-0172	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wiregrass Spay/Nueter Alliance	570 South Foster Street	Dothan	Alabama	36301	334-671-8111	<input 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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>

<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	<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**    Required    Optional    Not Available       No    Yes

**Rabies Vaccination if Due**    Required    Optional    Not Available       No    Yes  

**Other Vaccination if Due**    Required    Optional    Not Available       No    Yes

**Pain Medication\***    Required    Optional    Not Available       No    Yes

**Parasite Medication**    Required    Optional    Not Available       No    Yes

**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:**

Though some of our vets have varying costs for procedures, we are using all grant funds to cover costs associated with spay/neuter procedures. Any excess funds will be utilized to cover any additional TNR that we can accommodate. Residents will be required to pay a \$25 co-pay at drop-off, and those on federal assistance can have that co-pay waived.

**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
Blooper's Animal Rescue and Transport	Handling transportation of the cats to and from the shelter for spay/neuter services.
The Back Porch	Ongoing campaign to support funds for spay/neuter services for SOCKS.
TNR Army	A group of people in our community who are committed to private TNR assistance.

## 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 work throughout the community we expect to meet and recruit more volunteers to help with this initiative. We also will encourage the community to get involved by educating themselves and others about how The Feline Fix will improve the lives of not just the cats, but the neighborhoods they live in.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:****Cats:** 250 **Dogs:** 0**Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000):** \$25,000.00**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$100.00**Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for (for example, vaccines, microchipping, ear notching, etc.):**

SOCKS will cover any remaining costs associated with the Feline Fix program. The vets that SOCKS works with do include ear notching, and SOCKS plans to work with local groups such as the APL to run campaigns and raise adequate funding for the remaining costs of micro-chipping and vaccinating felines. Additionally, SOCKS has several private donors who often contribute to our TNR efforts.

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

In the past, SOCKS has received and expended all funds awarded from Florida Animal Friends. SOCKS has also received a couple of county grants to support our TNR efforts. Additionally, SOCKS regularly partners with local businesses to donate proceeds toward spay/neuter efforts.

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

80

## 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:** 09/01/25**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.**

SOCKS has plans to apply for more grant funding in the future in order to continue to support our TNR efforts. Additionally, SOCKS will advertise designated campaigns for spay/neuter services, host educational meetings for the public, and hold fundraisers. SOCKS also owns and operates a thrift store where proceeds can be used to support TNR efforts as well.

## 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.**

**SOCKS currently promotes the Florida Animal Friends license plate and will continue to do so through posting on our social media accounts, placing handouts in the front of our shelter, placing fliers in adoption bags, placing fliers in our thrift store, and promoting the license plate during community and adoption events.**

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

**6**