

Grant ID: 2237

Title of Proposal: No more litters

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Sheltering Hands Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Sheltering Hands Inc

Website Address: shelteringhands.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Elena Goulet

Position: Treasurer

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: elena@shelteringhands.org

Agency Head: April LeSage

Agency Head Email: april@shelteringhands.org

Organization Business Address: 10397 N US Hwy 27

City: Ocala

State: FL

Zip: 34482

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-840-0663

County: Marion

Cell: 401-935-4891

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 20-8941924

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 09/09/2007

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 04/01/22 **End:** 03/31/23

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$594,061.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$494,187.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 4 Part Time: 12

Number of Active Volunteers: 103

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 289.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? previous applicant and recipience

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2011, 2022, 2023

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
111	2009	Levy County TNR and Low Income Spay/Neuter Program	Funded
214	2011	Community Cat Cooperative	Denied
326	2012	Community Cats Program	Funded
1424	2014	Community Cats TNR Program	Funded
1663	2016	Community Cats Program TNR	Funded
1777	2018	Community Cats Spay/Neuter	Funded
1914	2020	The Fix is In Marion	Funded
2079	2022	Free Feral Fix	Denied (not completed)
2142	2023	Tip to Tails	Denied
2237	2024	No more litters	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
Diane Kupchak	Board Member
Elena Goulet	Treasurer
Leslie Hinson	President
Susie Fromm DVM	Vice President
Sylvia Tucker	Secretary

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

288 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

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

3 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

3872 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.

Since its inception, Sheltering Hands has been dedicated to providing low-cost spay/neuter services. The organization has played a crucial role in collaborating with Marion County to amend county ordinances to allow for Trap, Neuter, and Return programs. Recognizing the importance of preventing the birth of unwanted kittens, Sheltering Hands has expanded its services to include privately owned cats. In December 2022, Sheltering Hands established the CATT Alliance in partnership with Marion County Animal Services, Humane Society of Marion County, VOCAL, and Quality of Life Rehab and Foster. The CATT Alliance (Cat Alliance Tip to Tails) offers comprehensive services for colonies of 10 or more cats in Marion County, including trapping, pre-surgery care, surgery, recovery housing, and return. Each cat receives vaccinations, an ear tip for identification, and any necessary medical care for their quality of life. In the first year of the alliance, 956 surgeries were completed. In addition to surgical procedures, Sheltering Hands manages administrative tasks such as maintaining the website, colony registration lists, and overseeing trapping efforts. This year, the organization has implemented mapping software to track colony locations and completed colonies. Sheltering Hands is fortunate to have dedicated surgeons committed to their spay/neuter efforts. Dr. Tecla Myrick serves as the medical director, bringing years of experience in shelter medicine and from a private cat-only clinic in Ocala. Dr. Lisa McNichols has been with Sheltering Hands for over 10 years, performing thousands of spay/neuter surgeries.

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

Sheltering Hands provides a comprehensive low-cost spay/neuter program for cats, which includes sterilization, FVRCP and rabies vaccinations, pain medication, and flea control, all for a fee of \$55. Additionally, the organization offers supplementary services such as FIV/FELV testing, microchipping, and deworming. Sheltering Hands goes above and beyond by providing additional medical care, free of charge to ensure the best possible life for each cat. This care may include wound care, Capstar treatment for fleas, antibiotics, hernia repair, and eye enucleations.

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

Cats: 3782 **Dogs:** 0

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Marion, Levy, Putnam counties
Total human population in target area:	517691
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	average 20%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	156877
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	129423

Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	86282
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	na
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	NA
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	NA
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	NA
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. We agree with the target population.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: The significant population growth in Marion County is causing cat colonies to move into more populated areas. Additionally, a population that is relocating is leaving behind unsterilized animals. Levy and Putnam counties do not have easy access to spay/neuter services.	
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? Even though Marion County Animal Services has a Spay/Neuter/Return program and three nonprofit organizations offering services, the demand remains high, particularly for community or non-owned cats. Levy and Putnam counties lack easy access to low-cost spay/neuter 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: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Limited access to low cost spay/neuter	

Objectives

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

Providing free spay/neuter services for unowned/community cats in Marion, Levy, and Putnam counties will certainly help control the population of unwanted kittens.

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

The grant funds will allow us to provide 556 free surgeries.

Methods

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

Caregivers that provide an address in one of the target counties.

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

We will publish the availability of surgery on our website and social media.

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

Collaborating with other rescues and utilizing Sheltering Hands' transport services will be instrumental in reaching and assisting more cats in need.

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.

CATT Marion cats are transported in trapper vehicles or the Sheltering Hands van, with each animal secured in a trap or carrier. To ensure safety, all carriers are zip-tied during transport. Caretakers in the CATT Marion program sign a liability waiver, and all trappers adhere to ASPCA trapping guidelines. For transportation to Levy or Putnam counties, a liability waiver will be necessary. The drivers selected for this purpose have been trained in Sheltering Hands' transport policy.

Veterinary Services

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

Sheltering Hands will be using in house veterinarians.

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.*

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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:

The \$45 cost will cover the sterilization surgery, pain medication and rabies vaccination. All other required items will be financially covered by Sheltering Hands.

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
No records to display.	

Other Information

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

Sheltering Hands' commitment to collaboration is evident through their leadership in the CATT Marion alliance, supported by letters from their partners for their grant application. They also provide hands-on training for future veterinarians from the University of Florida, emphasizing their dedication to population control efforts and alignment with the goals of Florida Animal Friends.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 556 **Dogs:** 0

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

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.):

FVRCP, exams and flea prevention will be paid for by Sheltering Hands. Any transportation expenses will also be paid by Sheltering Hands.

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

We will fundraise for CATT Marion as needed. Sheltering Hands has regular contributions to our angel fund which provides free surgery to clients.

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

90

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: 09/02/24/ **Projected end date:** 07/30/25

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.**

Continuing to fundraise through social media and membership, as well as utilizing the Angel fund program, will enable Sheltering Hands to provide services to those in need and cover costs not included in the grant.

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.**

Sheltering Hands promotes the Florida Animal Friends grant on their website, irrespective of whether they receive the grant, as they wholeheartedly support the mission and goals of Florida Animal Friends. If awarded the grant, Sheltering Hands will issue press releases to highlight the grant and the impactful work made possible by it.

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

15