

Grant ID: 2268

Title of Proposal: TNR and Spay Neuter Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: SNIP Collier, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: SNIP Collier, Inc.

Website Address: www.snipcollier.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Barbara Jean Wilson

Position: Communications and Grants Adviser

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: barbarajwilson718@gmail.com

Agency Head: Tom Kepp

Agency Head Email: napleskepp@gmail.com

Organization Business Address: 7795 Davis Boulevard #208

City: Naples

State: FL

Zip: 34104

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 239-778-8572

County: Collier

Cell: 239-961-1636

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 47-4607649

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 07/17/2015

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,090,941.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$810,733.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 5 Part Time: 3

Number of Active Volunteers: 35

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 525.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Former grantee

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
1956	2021	Spay/Neuter Grant Request	Denied
2031	2022	Growing SNIP	Funded
2268	2024	TNR and Spay Neuter Program	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
Dawna Holowell,	Director and Secretary
Kristin Day	Director of Marketing and Fundraising
Tom Kepp	Founder and Managing Director
Tom Wehr	Director of Finance

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

15 cats and 172 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

2348 cats and 1263 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- Stray/lost pet intake
- Owner surrendered animals
- Lost and found program
- Adoption program
- Foster program
- Food bank
- Behavior counseling
- Disaster services
- Wellness services to understand pet owners
- Cruelty investigation
- Enforcement of ordinances
- Volunteer program
- High volume spay/neuter clinic
- Full service wellness clinic

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.

1. Owner surrendered animals – Citizens call SNIP to pick up puppies/kittens and their mothers. SNIP spays/neuters the animals and places them either in the care of nine foster families, partner shelters or to adopters. SNIP returns the mother to the original owner upon request after she is spayed. 2. Foster program – Currently nine families foster approximately 150 animals annually. 3. Disaster services – SNIP rescues stray animals after hurricanes/storms and is required by law to take the strays to Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) and supplies dog/cat food to owners who need assistance. 4. Wellness services to underserved pet owners – SNIP provides low/no cost vaccinations, wellness exams and sterilization services to underserved families. 5. Cruelty investigations/Enforcement of Ordinances – SNIP vigorously works with local law enforcement, elected officials and DAS to alert them to unsafe conditions and or sick and injured animals they observe while out in the community. SNIP also advocates for more robust investigations and enforcement. 6. Volunteer program – community volunteers assist with all SNIP programs including fundraising, events, field work, advocacy, assistance in the clinic, fostering and helping with adoptions. 7. High volume spay and neuter clinic – SNIP operates a high volume spay/neuter clinic facility on Davis Boulevard in Naples that sterilized 2,895 dogs and cats in 2023. An additional 686 were sterilized through the TNR program in 2023. SNIP began offering TNR services in a mobile spay/neuter clinic in Immokalee. Over 60 feral and domestic cats were sterilized in the first two days of operation. SNIP's TNR operations alone sterilized 686 cats in 2023. 8. Staffing – Tom Kepp is the founder of SNIP Collier (founded in 2015) and is literally boots on the ground to rescue and transport injured or sick cats and dogs so they can be treated and sterilized. Jose Lopez is the clinic manager and a licensed veterinary technician (LVT) and a certified veterinary technician (CVT.)

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

SNIP operates no/low-cost spay and neuter programs at its Davis Boulevard clinic and a no-cost TNR program. TNR and spay/neuter services are also provided in the new mobile clinic currently based in Immokalee. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXEpPbUwMJg>

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

Cats: 2348 **Dogs:** 1263

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Immokalee, FL
Total human population in target area:	28,000
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	27
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	8485
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	7000
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	4667
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2944
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1902
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	172
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	69

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Research conducted in Tennessee indicated pet ownership statistics in rural areas are significantly higher than the national averages. They found through estimates and informal surveys that the rural pet population is more likely 90% of the human population. In rural areas, more households have pets and keep more pets than average. Sadly, most of these pets are free-roaming and only about 30% were fixed before spay/neuter assistance was available. (Retrieved online 03/27/24: <https://www.unitedspayalliance.org/rural-reality-more-pets-and-fewer-resources-means-some-communities-need-more-help/>) 90% of Immokalee's population translates into 25,200 stray animals.

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

Lack of Spaying and Neutering: Failure to spay (for females) and neuter (for males) pets is a significant contributor to overpopulation. Uncontrolled breeding leads to more litters being born, adding to the population of unwanted animals. Irresponsible Ownership: Some pet owners do not take responsible ownership seriously, allowing their pets to roam freely without supervision or neglecting their care, which can lead to unplanned pregnancies and abandoned animals. Backyard Breeding and Puppy Mills: Unregulated breeding practices, such as backyard breeding and puppy mills, often prioritize profit over the welfare of animals. This can result in large numbers of puppies and kittens being produced without proper care or consideration for their future homes. Lack of Access to Veterinary Care: In some areas, limited access to affordable veterinary services makes it difficult for pet owners to spay, neuter, and provide proper medical care for their animals, contributing to overpopulation. Failure to Microchip and License Pets: Without proper identification, lost pets may never be reunited with their owners, leading to strays adding to the overpopulation issue. Abandonment and Stray Animals: Pets that are abandoned or lost contribute to the population of stray animals, especially if they are not spayed or neutered, allowing them to reproduce in the wild. Cultural Attitudes Toward Pets: Cultural attitudes toward pets and their care can influence overpopulation. In some regions, pets may not be valued as family members, leading to higher rates of abandonment and neglect. Addressing dog and cat overpopulation requires a multifaceted approach that includes promoting responsible pet ownership, education programs, increasing access to affordable spaying and neutering services, regulating breeding practices, and implementing measures to control the population of stray animals.

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?

Outside of SNIP Collier's mobile clinic, residents do not have access to no/low cost spay/neuter services in the Immokalee 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)?

SNIP Collier will utilize the \$25,000 grant to neuter/spay an additional 555 dogs and cats in the 12 months following the grant, of which at least 90% will be from the Immokalee area.

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

555 incremental animals sterilized represent a 15% increase in sterilizations over Fiscal Year 2023.

Methods

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

SNIP does not require proof of income to provide services. Services are offered to those in need. SNIP also works with clients to accept monthly payments as low as \$5. Nobody is

turned away because of their inability to pay.

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

The program will be promoted utilizing social media and media releases. Founder Tom Kepp has a close relationship with local media and is constantly used as a “go-to” resource for source dog/cat issues by the media. Grassroots marketing has always been a trademark of SNIP Collier. Kepp and his team of volunteers go into communities throughout the county in the early mornings and Kepp goes to Immokalee two or three days a week. They knock on doors and pass out flyers with SNIP’s information. People can sign up to have their dogs fixed for free and returned, or they can surrender their pets if they can’t take care of them. SNIP then works with several local shelters to get the surrendered dogs adopted or places them in foster homes until they are adopted. SNIP Collier also distributes flyers at its community events, like “Rock the Block” held every third Thursday at the Mercato plaza from 6-9 PM.

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

1. The Mobile clinic will be stationed primarily in Immokalee and staffed with at least one bilingual volunteer or staff person. 2. SNIP Collier has acquired the former Immokalee Domestic Animal Services land and buildings with a 30-year lease from Collier County (\$1 a year for 30 years.) SNIP is raising funds to update, renovate and construct additional buildings to help address the pet overpopulation crisis in Immokalee. The SNIP Immokalee Campus will feature a clinic and surgery center featuring spay/neuter services, kennels and holding areas for strays and an education center with an open-air pavilion. Bilingual staff and/or volunteers will assist in communication to clients.

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.

No

Veterinary Services

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

SNIP utilizes in-house veterinary staff to perform spays and neuters. By law, SNIP Collier must deliver strays to Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) who then spay or neuter them before they are returned to their owners and/or put up for adoption.

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	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$140.00	\$45.00	\$185.00

Range for Female Dogs

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 above fees reflect a la carte prices for clinic clients. SNIP absorbs all fees for the feral cats in its TNR program.. SNIP also offers: 1. Feral cat package available to trappers for \$55 which includes spay/neuter, rabies vaccine, FVRCP, ivermectin, pain medicine, ear tip (required.) 2. A dog vaccine package – Exam, 1 yr./3yr. Rabies, DHPPL, Bordetella, Heartworm Test for \$100/\$110 3. Cat vaccine package - Exam, 1 yr./3yr. Rabies, FVRCP, FELV for \$80-90. 4. \$60 Puppy 12 week package – Exam, DHPPL, Bordetella, Dewormer 5. \$60 Puppy 16 week package – Exam, DHPPL, 1 yr. rabies 6. \$60 Kitten 8 week package – Exam, FVRCP, Deworm 7. \$60 Kitten 16 week package – Exam, FVRCP, 1 yr. Rabies

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
Cape Coral Animal Services	Fosters and adopts out puppies, kittens and owner surrenders rescued by SNIP Collier,
Collier County Domestic Animal Services	By law, SNIP Collier delivers stray animals to them for owner hold. Animals are spayed/neutered before they are returned to the owner or adopted. SNIP reports incidences of owner abuse for their follow-up.
Feral Colony Caretakers	Alerts SNIP Collier when they have trapped animals from the colony so they can be spayed/neutered.
Gulf Coast Animal Services	Fosters and adopts out puppies, kittens and owner surrenders rescued by SNIP Collier,

Other Information

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

In addition to the mobile clinic that is primarily based in Immokalee, SNIP Collier has acquired the former Immokalee Domestic Animal Services land and buildings with a 30-year lease from Collier County (\$1 a year for 30 years.) These buildings will be updated, renovated and addition buildings constructed to help address the pet overpopulation crisis in Immokalee. This low-cost veterinary clinic in Immokalee will be easily accessible for the most impoverished pet owners and for the SNIP team of volunteers who are in the field daily rescuing hurt, sick and vulnerable cats and dogs. The clinic will house a surgery center, an education center, recovery area, separate cat/dog rescue holding kennels, reception area and offices. SNIP clinics will also provide discounted spay and neuter services to local shelters to expedite the adoption process. By having a SNIP Collier Low-Cost Clinic in Immokalee, the number of unwanted pregnancies in both dogs and cats will be reduced.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 3000 **Dogs:** 1200

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.):

Expenses not allowable in this grant will be funded by private donors, service fees/income, fundraising events and other private and corporate foundation grants.

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

Summerlee Foundation (confirmed,) The Isles of Collier Preserve Foundation (pending,) Hansen Family Foundation (pending,) special events, private donations and applying for other grants.

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.**

SNIP Collier will sustain the public spay/neuter and TNR programs via various sources of revenue: clinic program fees, private donations, incremental fundraising events and grant requests to government, private and corporate foundations.

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.**

The grant and promoting the sale of the FL Animal Friend Spay/Neuter license plate will be publicized via media releases, in social media, e-newsletters and adding a link on the SNIP Collier website to the license plate site. SNIP will post license plate reminders on social media with a link to the AFA site every month as a reminder to social media followers.

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

Unknown