

Grant ID: 2259

Title of Proposal: Free Spay Neuter Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$24,995.00

Check Payable To: St. Augustine Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: St. Augustine Humane Society

Website Address: www.staughumane.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Carolyn Smith

Position: executive director

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: admin1@staughumane.org

Agency Head: Carolyn Smith

Agency Head Email: admin1@staughumane.org

Organization Business Address: 1665 Old Moultrie Rd

City: St. Augustine

State: FL

Zip: 32084

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-829-2737

County: St. Johns

Cell: 904-315-0625

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 59-1324680

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/01/1980

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,403,825.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,311,065.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 12 Part Time: 10

Number of Active Volunteers: 35

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 195.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We are a prior recipient

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2010, 2011, 2013

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
133	2010	St. Augustine Humane Society Spay/Neuter Assistance Grant	Denied
262	2011	Stray and Feral Cat Fix	Denied
364	2013	Fix-it Fund for Low Income Pet Owners and Displaced Housecats	Denied
1420	2014	Onsite Spay and Neuter Clinic	Funded
1677	2016	Free Spay Neuter Program	Funded
1799	2018	Free Spay Neuter Program	Funded
1916	2020	Free Spay Neuter Program	Funded
2073	2022	Free Spay Neuter Program	Funded
2259	2024	Free 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
Debbie Joyce	director
Karen Hogan	director
Kristin Deshazo	director
Lynne Catoggio	president
Perrin Todd	director
Rachael Naylor	treasurer
Ron Faircloth	director

Ronald Brown	secretary
Tammy Fanguy	vice president
Tommy Buckhalter	director

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.

2071 cats and 798 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.

We transitioned from being a shelter to a resource center in 2009, and developed programs to prevent the needless relinquishment of pets to shelters. Our primary programs include a low-cost wellness clinic and high-volume spay neuter clinic. We also maintain a Pet Food Pantry and collaborate with various dog trainers for behavioral consults. Dr. Lauren Rockey is our primary veterinarian, who routinely performs 40 spay neuters in a day, and we employ Dr. Michele Nelligan and Dr. Kevin Eastman on a regular part-time schedule. Carolyn Smith, executive director since 2011, oversees the financial operations. Jeannie McLain, operations manager since 2012, manages the staff schedules, protocols and procedures. We have 6 vet techs and several volunteer recovery techs and instrument techs. In 2020 we renovated and added surgery space which includes four heated sx tables and five anesthesia machines, three M-11 autoclaves, and enough high quality spay neuter instruments to maintain 125 sx packs.

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

Our staff was trained by ASPCA Spay Neuter Alliance in Asheville, NC in 2015. We implemented the training to establish a spay neuter program and have continued to grow the program over the last 8 years. In 2023, we performed 2869 sterilizations. We operate the spay neuter clinic 2 days a week and the wellness clinic 3 days a week. When FAF funds are unavailable, we always offer low-cost services and maintain a Cookie Jar Medical Fund to provide free services to pet owners in need. In 2023, we allocated \$24,000 from the general operating budget to the Cookie Jar Fund along with an anticipated \$6000 in direct donations to the Cookie Jar to subsidize our low-cost clinic. We also have a collaboration with Street Dog Coalition to serve pets of the homeless.

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

Cats: 2071 **Dogs:** 798

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	St. Johns County
Total human population in target area:	320110
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	11.5

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	97004
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	80028
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	53352
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1477
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1156
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	583
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	109
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We believe the animal numbers are correct. Although we provide services to all of St. Johns County, our primary geographic target areas are in the following zip codes due to the higher concentration of low-income residents: 32084, 32033, 32145, 32086. We know this from previous FAF data collection years. We also know that the majority of the community cat population is located in these zip codes. We used the poverty percentage for 32084, and our clinic is geographically located at the center of 32084. We also know that we get many low-income pet owners from the Hastings area which falls within the zip code area of 32145. Overall zip code 32145 poverty rate is 22%	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Statistically, unaltered pets belonging to low-income owners account for 85% of the unwanted pet population. Because these pet owners access services in our low-cost clinic and pet food pantry, we know that providing free spay neuter surgeries is also needed to help reduce the number of surrendered and euthanized cats and dogs. Due to their prolific nature, cats are at extreme risk (both community cats and cats of low-income owners)	
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 many private practice vet clinics in the area, but the fees are beyond what our low-income clients can afford. Clay Humane and First Coast No More Homeless Pets offer low-cost spay neuter services but present geographic obstacles. Pet owners prefer having the surgery center nearby as many do not have reliable transportation and our wellness clinic is here to provide follow-up care if needed.	
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other	

Objectives

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

The \$25,000 funding from Florida Animal Friend will be instrumental in enabling us to perform 494 sterilizations, comprising 394 cats and 100 dogs. Our primary objective is to address the pressing issue of pet overpopulation in St. Johns County, which is exacerbated by its status as one of the highest growth areas in Florida. While it's challenging to precisely quantify the direct impact on shelter admissions, we recognize the urgent need for affordable spay/neuter services in our community. The demand for our low-cost services continues to rise steadily. By leveraging this funding, we aim to meet this escalating demand effectively. Our historical data underscores the effectiveness of our efforts. Over the past years, we have witnessed a consistent increase in the number of surgeries performed annually. In 2020, we conducted 2,169 surgeries, which rose to 2,417 in 2021,

and further increased to 2,610 in 2022. By 2023, our commitment led to 2,869 surgeries. Looking ahead, we anticipate a continued annual increase of approximately 10% in sterilization numbers for the years 2024 and 2025. However, the critical distinction lies in the impact of FAF funding. With the support of Florida Animal Friend, this increase will be strategically focused on low-income populations that significantly contribute to the overpopulation issue.

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

We are unable to offer free surgeries without supporting funds. The last award received from Florida Animal Friend was utilized from September 2022 to July 2023 . We were able to complete sterilizations of 83 dogs and 72 cats from low-income households, and 357 community cats. Total spay neuters: 512. We spent an additional \$642.50 from internal funds to reach this program goal. The FAF grant adds surgery numbers from the most vulnerable populations, as these animals would otherwise not receive services due to financial constraints. During months when grant funds are not available, we are able to offer our regular low-cost fees, but unfortunately, the lowest income population producing the most unwanted pets is not able to pay even our lowest fees. We subsidize with internal funds when we are able.

Methods

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

We conduct interviews with our clients to assess their needs, and upon agreement, they sign a declaration confirming their requirement. We adopt a compassionate approach and do not mandate proof of income or government assistance. Our aim is to provide support, particularly during these challenging economic times. We acknowledge that even those who were previously self-sufficient may now encounter difficulties in providing for their families and pets.

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

Many locals are already aware of the license plate grant funding, and word of mouth seems to be the best marketing. We promote the program on our roadside electronic message board, on Facebook, and E-newsletters. Our Community Relations Director, Lynn Washington, is always in the field and personally talking to citizens in the target areas, especially high-density community cat neighborhoods. He also has a regular television spot on First Coast Living (First coast News) and on River City Live (Action News) We post flyers at appropriate locations.

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

Two of our vet techs speak Spanish, which is helpful at times. The FAF form is simple, but we are aware of difficulties that some clients might experience. Our volunteers and staff are able to assist pet owners individually with the required paperwork, often filling out the information through conversation. Council on Aging has provided transportation for our elderly clients with their pets as needed.

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?

Our staff veterinarians, Dr. Lauren Rockey, Dr. Michele Nelligan, and Dr. Kevin Eastman will be performing all surgeries in-house. They are each paid a fixed daily rate.

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	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$90.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>

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="\$16.00"/>
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="\$10.00"/>
HW Testing	<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="\$25.00"/>
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$28.00"/>
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$18.00"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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:

A brief exam is performed on animals prior to anesthesia.. Feral cats are examined after anesthesia. We provide a rabies vaccination at no charge if needed. Our other vaccinations and tests are optional and provided at a low-cost rate. Every animal receives pain medication, including every community cat which receives a long-lasting injectable. Topical flea prevention is applied at no charge to cats that appear to have a flea infestation. We offer optional various parasite preventatives at additional cost. Community

cats/feral cats will receive surgery, a rabies & a distemper vaccination, ear-tipping, along with no charge ear mite treatment and flea preventative. We maintain a trap depot for cat caregivers to borrow, as community cats must arrive in humane traps. We supply the spay neuter services, but we do not manage colonies or get involved with the actual "trapping and returning" as a comprehensive TNR program level.

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
Home Again St. Johns	They have outreach teams who are in contact with the homeless population. they send their clients to us for services
Local Radio and Pod casts	WSOS radio does occasional PSA's for us and live interviews. 904 Now podcast has done regular live interviews
Rescue Groups	We reserve FAF funds for owned animals. However our rescue partners use our regular low-cost services and also are advocates in the community for us. Luna's Legacy and Feline Fairies are cat rescues. Swamp Haven Rescue is a dog rescue that regularly collaborates with us
Rotary Club	Our social media professional is a member of St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary Club. She promotes our services with the club members. The club also collaborates with us for community events. example: 2024 Pup-A-Pawloozza.
St. Johns County Animal Control	Referral source for owners needing pet care assistance. Upon request, we provide veterinary services when their designated vet is unavailable. They help supply our Pet Food Pantry, when their storage has overflow. They have partnered with us for events and media appearances
St. Johns County sheriff's Office	A current board member is a law enforcement officer and spreads information about our services throughout the community
Television News outlets	Action News reserves a monthly spot on their River City Live segment. First Coast News reserves a weekly spot on their First Coast Living segment.

Other Information

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

Our mission is to establish a supportive ecosystem for disadvantaged pet owners, ensuring they have access to essential spay neuter surgeries and veterinary care. Unlike other programs constrained by strict financial eligibility criteria, we welcome all pet owners, recognizing the importance of inclusivity in addressing community needs. Leveraging various financial assistance avenues such as our Cookie Jar Fund and Scratchpay financing options, we strive to bridge the affordability gap for those in need. FAF funds will target those pet owners most in need. Operating five days a week, our facility offers personalized in-person assistance alongside convenient online pre-registration and email support, ensuring accessibility for all. A recent expansion has significantly enhanced our capacity to accommodate more appointments, thereby expanding our reach within the community. With rising concerns about inflation, we anticipate an increased demand for our safety net services. The support from the Florida Animal Friend grant will enable us to extend our outreach to a specific segment of our community. Despite facing escalating operational costs, we remain committed to keeping our fees low, recognizing the financial difficulties faced by our target demographic. To incentivize responsible pet ownership, our low-cost veterinary clinic exclusively serves pet owners who consent to their pets undergoing sterilization, thus promoting the importance of spay/neuter services. Moreover, our commitment to community welfare extends to the humane management of community cat populations through our provision of a trap depot for caregivers. At the culmination of the grant period, we pledge to furnish a comprehensive report, inclusive of statistical data pertaining to animal species and gender, as well as any additional specifics stipulated by the Florida Animal Friend grant requirements. This report will serve as a testament to our dedication to transparency and accountability in our endeavors to serve the community's needs effectively.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 394 **Dogs:** 100

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$24,995.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$51.00

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

The \$10 paid by client helps to ensure they keep their appointment and helps to mitigate the cost of rabies vaccination and parasite control. Community cat packages are all inclusive and described on the FAF form as well as our regular surgery form. Optional vaccines, diagnostics, advanced parasite preventatives, and e-collars are the responsibility of the pet owner. However, no animal will leave without necessary treatment, and additional costs will be absorbed. Many expenses associated with the program will be allocated from our general operating budget, and our "Spay it Forward" donations.

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

We allocate a substantial amount in our budget to the Cookie Jar Medical Fund to subsidize veterinary costs on a case by case basis. We have a collaboration with Street Dog Coalition to provide vaccines and preventatives for pets of the homeless. Upon request, Street Dog will subsidize spay neuter as needed. Our vendors provide us with free and discounted goods to supplement as needed. All other overhead costs are absorbed in our general operating budget. Our biggest fundraising effort of the year, the Pin Up Paws Campaign brings in approximately \$80,000 to be used in general operations, which assists in keeping our low-cost model sustainable

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: 09/01/24/ **Projected end date:** 08/01/25

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.**

Our low-cost, high-volume spay neuter program is based on the ASPCA Spay Neuter Alliance model, which is designed to be sustainable. We are the only clinic in St. Johns County with this designation and as part of the network we receive additional discounts from Merck and from MWI. We actively seek donations through various fundraising efforts. The annual fundraising schedule is attached for your review ("other"). We also maintain a pet spa on the property as a revenue generating program to help fund our charity services.

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.**

St. Augustine Humane Society is grateful and proud to work with Florida Animal Friend, and will promote the organization in all media opportunities. SAHS will promote the Florida Animal Friend license plate in the following manner: 1. Press releases through our annual contract with Old City PR which has over 675 media contacts around Northeast Florida, including Times-Union, Folio Weekly, WSOS, First Coast Living, River City Live, St. Augustine Record, SOCIAL, WJCT, Ponte Vedra Recorder, Ponte Vedra Beaches Leader, and more. 2. Year-long prominent placement on our website, with link to the FAF license plate page. 3. We will feature the FAF logo on associated print materials. 4. E-newsletters go out monthly. 5. Facebook promotion posts. 6. Rack cards at our front desk. 7. Recognition in our event program (with QR code) at the 2024 Pin Up Paws party.

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

8