

Grant ID: 2266

Title of Proposal: Stop Miami Littering

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$21,250.00

Check Payable To: The Cat Network

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: The Cat Network

Website Address: thecatnetwork.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Jill Steinberg

Position: Treasurer

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: jillenid@bellsouth.net

Agency Head: Karen Rundquist

Agency Head Email: info@thecatnetwork.org

Organization Business Address: 12125 SW 114th Place

City: Miami

State: FL

Zip: 33176

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 305-409-0028

County: Miami-Dade

Cell:

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 65-0597008

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 06/07/1995

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$622,122.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$504,311.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 3 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 1500

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 2250.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2009, 2013, 2022

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
91	2009	Spay and Save - Cats and Dollars	Denied
163	2010	Spay a Stray	Funded
1581	2007		Funded
2266	2024	Stop Miami Littering	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
Bonnie Askary	Director
Charlene Grall	Director
Deborah Diaz	Director
Irene Shaffer	Director
Jill Steinberg	Treasurer
Karen Rundquist	President
Lynn Macauley	Director
Sue Jackson	Vice President
Valentina LaMont	Director

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

4220 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

4216 cats and 0 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

4 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

3667 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.

The Cat Network is a 501(c)3 Florida not-for-profit corporation dedicated to humanely reducing cat overpopulation by educating the public about the need to sterilize their pets and strays; providing access to low or no-cost spay/neuter services; helping members in their efforts to place adoptable kittens and cats in loving homes; and advocating non-lethal population control and humane public policy. We are a membership organization with 1500 active members. Members include trappers, fosters, adoption center volunteers and TNR advocates. We run on the strength of our large volunteer network. We employ only three staff members which includes a long-term program manager and two veterinary technicians. Our contract veterinarian has been with us for 13 years and is highly respected in the TNR community. We hold monthly meetings with our members and our directors work tirelessly in the community to further advocate for the importance of TNR.

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 Meow Mobile which proudly sports a Florida Animal Friends license plate provides low cost spay and neuter surgeries, vaccinations and basic wellness care to cats and kittens in Miami-Dade County. It is a fully equipped surgery center, ready to provide the safest possible sterilization procedures for our feline friends.

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

Cats: 3667 **Dogs:**

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Homestead, Florida
Total human population in target area:	81562
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	21.6
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	24716
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	20391
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	13594
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A - All shelters full
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 - All shelters full
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.

We believe the population is significantly larger for free roaming community cats as our members have identified this as a dumping ground for abandoned pets. Homestead City is considered less metropolitan, providing those who abandon a sense of comfort that they are abandoning not on a city street. Sadly instead they suffer terribly. The City's community enforcement agencies is becoming more vigilant however our members have pulled a significant amount of kittens from this area.

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

The Wall Street Journal has identified that approximately 25% of pet owners are concerned with the high costs of pet ownership and that 50% of that population are considering abandoning their pet. This is the reality in South Florida. With the highest rate of inflation in the country and the cost of housing almost doubling, lower income residents are struggling to house themselves and often find that they can no longer keep their pet. Sadly with shelters full, these pets end up abandoned. Our members have rescued cats abandoned outside of full rescue facilities, in shopping carts or restrooms at pet stores or at the side of busy roads. This level of abandonment is not something the Cat Network has seen in our long existence. We are at a level of crisis and our volunteers are mobilizing to identify hot spots that need attention.

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?

Homestead City offers low costs clinics with proof of residency. However with a high immigrant population fearful of government and the inability to afford even a low cost solution a better option is needed. The Cat Network runs with volunteer members active in the community. We are often approached in the local Petsmart or Pet Supermarket to help. Add to that, our President is from the Homestead area and is very familiar with specific locations such as Avocado School and the site of the old Mutineer restaurant where numerous cats have been trapped, sterilized and released but more resources are 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:

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 are in the fortunate situation to have the majority of our users of the Meow Mobile come to us. We have been established for many years in the South Florida community and we have a large network of members who use our low cost services for community cats or fosters as a benefit of their membership and are supported by Miami-Dade County for a portion of this program. These same members are letting us know of growing hot spots for abandonment and resulting exploding litters of kittens and community cat feeders in these areas. We have taken a large amount of kittens and from the Avocado School property as well as the site of the old Mutineer restaurant. We would like to target these areas and additional Homestead parks with trappers to bring cats to us. Our plan is to sterilize an additional 250 cats in this hotspot that would otherwise not come to us. Left alone this area will become an area of population explosion and we want to get ahead of this problem with a proactive solution. By sterilizing 250 cats in this know problem area we believe we can begin to turn the tide. We do not however have the additional funds at this time do do this as we can fulfill our current TNR goal with just cats that are brought to us. We have commitment from our member community to fundraise for the additional trappers if we will commit to spay and neuter this additional population. We have always been responsive to our community and we would like to be able to accomplish this additional project in a time where many others are overwhelmed. We believe that we have the experience to find support with our 1500 members of which more than 300 are located in or close proximity to Homestead. We have an established network of trappers and we have our own Meow Mobile to perform the surgeries.

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

We currently rely on members to bring cats to our facility. Our proposed program would be to engage 5-6 trappers in the Homestead City area to target known "hot spot" areas for

expanding populations of community cats. Our goal is to sterilize 250 cats in this area that would otherwise not have used both our Meow Mobile or the city programs. By doing this we believe we can, in combination with increased community enforcement reduce the significant amount of litters that are being identified in the Homestead area. Our fosters are overwhelmed and we cannot adopt at the level of the outreach we are receiving. Our goal is to be proactive and by sterilizing 250 cats we believe we can significantly help the issue as well as bring community trust and awareness of the Meow Mobile as an option going forward. The cats we would target would be above the number we are currently funded by Miami-Dade County and above our current level that we supplement with membership fees and fundraising. In a year when the need is overwhelming our mission is to do more.

Methods

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

We plan to focus on identified hot spot areas in Homestead City for free-roaming community cats. These areas have been already identified by our members who have observed expanding populations and an increase in abandonments.

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

We have a network of 1500 members who work tirelessly to help the cat population in South Florida. We hold monthly meetings where problem areas are raised. Homestead City is consistently a source of cats into our foster programs. We will highlight this program in our meetings as well as reach out to our members specifically that live in this area. We have the advantage of many dedicated eyes as part of the Cat Network. We have over 300 active members living in Homestead or in close proximity and we believe that this advertising by local active community members is stronger than any other form of advertising.

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

Due to our longevity in the South Florida area as well as our network model we have a strong network of experienced trappers. We will use these trappers, many who are bilingual, to promote the program as well as carry out the transport.

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.

Our trappers are long-term trappers in the South Florida community. They are highly trained, compassionate individuals who are well connected in the community. They use humane traps of which the Cat Network provides and are compassionate in their understanding of the healing process. We have high expectations of those in our program and we only use people that we have established trust over the years. This network sets us apart in what we can accomplish.

Veterinary Services

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

Dr Brian Huntsman has been working with the Cat Network for the past 13 years, 11 years as the primary veterinarian for the Meow Mobile. We have two additional vet techs and the labor cost considering these individuals is \$49 per cat. Our surgical team is well respected in the community and we are proud of our quality, efficiency and compassion for our patients.

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="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$85.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<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	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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="\$30.00"/>
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:

All cats or kittens coming into the Meow Mobile are given an exam, rabies vaccine, parasite treatment and necessary pain medication. Costs incurred that are outside of the grant will be paid by the Cat Network. We have a standard of care for all Meow Mobile cats and we are willing to fund that above the level of the grant.

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
Gulliver High School	Source of considerable volunteers.
Member Cat Network Trappers	Have identified 5 trappers who are Cat Network members who will be directly involved in this program
Miami -Dade County	Support our TNR efforts with a grant.
Petsmart and Pet Supermarket	Will help to find homes for adoptable community cats by promoting kittens in their adoption centers run by Cat Network volunteers

Other Information

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

We are a member network with a tireless army of volunteers. Our volunteers have requested that we go to areas that they highlight as hot spots in the community. We would like to be responsive to these requests but do not have in our budget to immediately respond. South Florida is currently overwhelmed with the level of pet abandonments. However we are not an organization to turn away just because something is hard. Establishment of a program such as this which would focus on hot spots would allow our organization to be more responsive to our members. We want to be proactive and not reactive and we believe we have a strong opportunity here to be just that. We have the ability to track by zip code as well as a large member network who will be vocal as to whether or not we are making a difference.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 250 Dogs: 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$21,250.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$85.00

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

Grant does not include full cost of rabies vaccine, additional vaccines for kittens that the Cat Network deems necessary as well as parasite treatment. In addition, the cost of trappers and trap is not reflected in the grant.

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

As the services above are considered necessary to our program delivery, we will cover these additional costs through fundraising and volunteer donations.

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

70

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.**

In future we plan to proactively poll our members as to hot spots in our South Florida community and to target these areas. We hope to use this project to build a repeatable process to discuss with cities and local school or community groups to create a more grassroots solution to a problem that is recognized by the community. If we can demonstrate that such a program is successful in Homestead we believe that we can obtain additional grants from cities or fundraise in specific zipcodes to address identified problems. We would like to use this project as a success story to show what can be done when an organization such as ours is proactive to a problem.

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.**

We proudly display the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate on our Meow Mobile. In addition we are aware of at least 8 plates on long-standing Cat Network members and likely many more in our broader member population. We commit to publicizing our support of the sale of the Florida Animal Friend license plates at our monthly meeting and in our monthly newsletter to our full member population. We have posted our support on our website and will also include rack cards at our 6 South Florida Petsmarts, 4 South Florida Pet Supermarkets and at our Meow Mobile registration desk. We welcome the opportunity to publicize our support of the Animal Friend license plate program.

**Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:
At least 8 we are aware of but likely higher**