

Grant ID: 2219

Title of Proposal: Spay/Neuter Grant

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: TITD

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: This Is The Dog

Website Address: Thisisthedog.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Gwen Hawtof

Position: volunteer

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: hawtofkw@gmail.com

Agency Head: Barb StAubin

Agency Head Email: bstaubin@thisisthedog.org

Organization Business Address: 44 NE 16th St

City: Homestead

State: FL

Zip: 33030

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 305-799-2227

County: Miami-Dade

Cell: 305-508-7387

Fax:

Agency Details

EIN: 26-2642895

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 05/15/2008

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$239,322.67

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$243,429.28

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 15

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 355.00

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: N/A Year(s) denied/incomplete: N/A

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1447	2015	This is the Dog! Spay/Neuter Foundation	Funded
2219	2024	Spay/Neuter Grant	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
Barbara St Aubin	President
Joseph St Aubin	Vice President/Treasurer

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

372 cats and 114 dogs were admitted.

361 cats and 112 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

11 cats and 2 dogs were euthanized.

196 cats and 423 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.

This Is The Dog has, since its inception, sought out any and all spay/neuter options in Miami-Dade County to alter our fosters. This has enabled us to offer those same resources to our county's pet owners. Our director has kept all these connections to make getting one's pet fixed straight forward and timely. Knowing which clinics can help with certain situations (eg. Pregnant or in heat, undescended testicles, large dogs, brachiocephalic dogs) keeps clients from giving up on getting help. This knowledge also helps us get the most done for our dollars spent. Our volunteers are committed to our spay/neuter efforts for dogs and cats, including scheduling, transport, TNR help, and followup help.

*Regarding the number of dogs and cats sterilized above: this counts the public's pets, outside of our rescue program. All of our adoption pets are sterilized before adoption.

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

Since our beginning in 2008, our rescue group has been committed to spay/neuter of all our rescues. Though our beginning involved rescuing strays off the street, we began responding to requests to help with other situations, such as helping place a litter of puppies AND altering momma (and dad, when possible). Realizing spay/neuter is the only way out of pet overpopulation, we expanded our outreach to help our community get their own pets fixed. We've become a trusted resource to our community to tap into any and all spay/neuter clinics available. As such, pet owners just call our number to get an appointment with a nearby clinic, and are offered any financial support needed. The last few years have seen that need explode and our resources tapped dry. In 2023, our spay/neuter grant funds of \$25,000 lasted only 6 months. This FAF grant, added to our spay/neuter fund, would ensure a full year of meeting our community's need in 2024 and doubling our numbers. We want to continue to offer free spay/neuter services through our program since, frankly, many "low cost" programs just aren't low enough. And "free" gets everyone's attention.

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

Cats: 196 **Dogs:** 423

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):	Miami-Dade County
Total human population in target area:	2,673,837
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	14.5%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	810254
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	668460
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	445640
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	17,608
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	8224
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1749
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1611
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	N/A
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	financial constraints, pet owners' lack of education regarding dog/cat biology (eg. thinking their male cat/dog won't mate with his sister/mother/daughter), earlier age cats/dogs

going into heat, location and frequency of services, county animal shelter operating over capacity and not open for admissions.

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?

Private veterinary clinics, Miami-Dade Animal Services, non-profit spay/neuter clinics (eg. The Cat Network, Humane Society of Greater Miami) The private veterinary clinics are priced beyond many households. MDAS's 2 clinics in Doral & Homestead have limited scheduling of clinics. In addition, the shelter has been closed to admissions so stray animals are not being picked up and contained where they will not reproduce. The non-profits are doing their best to be consistent with their 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:

Pets in low-income families Large mixed-breed dogs Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats. EAR-TIPPING IS REQUIRED Other farms and nurseries

Objectives

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

TITD hopes to provide free spay/neuter services to any pet owner. Whether they have a pet, inherited a pet, started feeding a stray: we want to help with free services. "Free" gets things done in a way "low-cost" doesn't. With the grant, we hope to double our numbers from 2023.

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

The FAF grant would double our 2023 budget dedicated to spay/neuter. Last year, we sterilized almost 200 cats and 420+ dogs. Doubling that number would have an immediate impact on our communities, and in turn, impact our Miami-Dade Animal Services shelter.

Methods

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

Citizen has a dog or cat to sterilize

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

Social media, paper flyers to schools/groceries/animal services, information in participating vet clinics.

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

We have a bilingual volunteer to help with translations. Many clients have transportation but need help with scheduling and finding nearest locations. Help with transportation is available on a case by case basis. Our diverse group of volunteers are great ambassadors to help overcome cultural bias to getting pets fixed.

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.

Rarely. One volunteer does help the farms/nurseries to transport pets in their vehicle in secure crates. Liability releases are included in the spay/neuter consent.

Veterinary Services

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

Our director has maintained relationships with our veterinarian practices, giving us regular weekly clinic appointments. They also let us know of any availability due to cancellations from others.

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
Bravo Animal Clinic	10901 SW186th St	Cutler Bay	FL	33157	305-234-9422	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Homestead Animal Hospital	1250 N Flagler Ave	Homestead	FL	33030	305-247-3845	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miami-Dade Animal Services	3599 NW 79th Ave	Doral	FL	33122	305-468-5900	<input type="checkbox"/>
Redland Animal Hospital	24840 SW 177th Ave	Homestead	FL	33031	305-245-5553	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Cat Network Miami Meow Mobile	PO Box 347228	Miami	FL	33234	305-233-9958	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Specialists, Inc	91 NE 6th St	Homestead	FL	33030	305-246-1701	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whiskers and Paws	182 Bayview Drive	Islamorada	FL	33036	305-393-1268	<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
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$40.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabies 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="\$15.00"/>
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="\$15.00"/>
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 type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
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:

Pain medication and ear tipping for feral cats is included at all clinics. Other services may be available to clients at certain locations and can be arranged by the pet owner with the clinic directly.

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 Shelter	Partner in advocacy and takes in excess dogs, when able
Natures Way Farms	Supports our transport program
Paws4You Rescue	partner in advocacy and fostering
Redland Dog Sanctuary	Partner in advocacy and holding dogs, fostering, grooming, and spay/neuter clinics.
St Aubin Technologies	Supports our computer access and digital provisions

Other Information

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

There are many spay/neuter opportunities in our community. Unfortunately, private veterinary practice prices are out of reach for many of our citizens, leading to many unplanned, and yet, avoidable litters of puppies and kittens. Offering free spay/neuter services will convince many pet owners to get this life-saving procedure done for their pets. We are already known in our community and have been helping people get their animals altered. We need the funds to double our numbers and provide spay/neuter services for an entire 12 months to meet the demands of our community. Until our county animal shelter, with its robust budget, turns its attention to prioritizing spay/neuter, our rescue will stay in the trenches, responding to the increased need. Anyone and everyone will qualify: a fixed pet is the solution.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 200 **Dogs:** 400

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$42.00

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

Vaccines, microchipping, licenses will be at the owner's cost. If hardship is a factor, TITD will provide the fee on an individual basis. Ear notching is not a cost at any of our providers.

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

We have been the recipient of the Caspersen grant for several past years. In 2023, it provided \$25,000 for spay/neuter, but only lasted 6 months, as the need had increased and we were one of few non-profits offering free spay/neuter. With the FAF grant, we hope to double our numbers and cover 12 months of service.

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

100

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.**

The Caspersen Foundation has been generous to TITD the last 5 years. The \$25,000 yearly grant jump-started our spay/neuter program, but these last 2 years have seen a surge in requests for help. We hope to continue to cover all requests made, while directing donations to our spay/neuter efforts. If we are a recipient of an FAF grant, that recognition will bring other donors in to enhance our outreach.

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 will add FAF logo/information to our social media presence as well as all adoption material given our rescue adoptions. Any public event will have FAF added as a supporter.

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