

Grant ID: 2338

**Title of Proposal:** Fixing the Future: A Lifesaving TNVR Program for Community Cats**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Cat Depot, Inc.

## Application Information

## Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Cat Depot, Inc.**Website Address:** 2542 17th Street,  
Sarasota, FL  
34234**Person Submitting Proposal:** Claudia Harden**Position:** Senior Director of  
Advancement**Person Submitting Proposal  
Email Address:** claudiah@catdepot.org**Person Submitting Proposal  
Cell:****Organization Head:** Ken Slavin**Organization Head's Email:** info@catdepot.org**Organization Business Address:** 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234**City:** Sarasota**State:** FL**Zip:** 34234**Organization Business Phone  
(xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 941-366-2404**County:** Sarasota**Organization Head's Cell:**

## Agency Details

**EIN:0% "> EIN:** 20-0217681**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 01/22/2004**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/24 **End:** 12/31/24**Organization Income in Last  
Fiscal Year:** \$2,726,759.80**Organization Expenses in Last  
Fiscal Year:** \$3,093,552.91**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 36 Part Time: 4**How did you learn of the 2009  
Florida Animal Friend grant  
competition?** We are previous grant recipients.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal  
Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend  
Applications:** Years Funded: 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2009, 2011, 2012,  
2013, 2020, 2021**Auto-Generated (Previous  
Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
139	2010	FAF 2010	Funded
178	2010	Cat Depot FAF Grant	Denied
288	2012	Florida Animal Friend 2012	Denied (not completed)

362	2013	Community Cat TNR Program	Denied (not completed)
1403	2014	Backyard Sterilization Project: Targeted Spay/Neuter of Community Cats and Personal Pets	Funded
1612	2006		Denied
1613	2007		Denied
1614	2008		Funded
1645	2016	Full Circle Community Cat Program	Funded
1807	2018	Full Circle Community Cat Program	Funded
1925	2020	Full Circle Community Cat/Low-Income Owner Program	Denied
1965	2021	Full Circle Community Cat/ Low Income Owner Program	Denied
2338	2025	Fixing the Future: A Lifesaving TNVR Program for Community Cats	Funded

**\*Type of Organization (check all that apply):**

☐ Municipal Agency with Shelter

☐ Municipal Agency without Shelter

☒ Private Animal Shelter

☐ Private Animal Shelter with Municipal Contract

☒ Public Spay/Neuter Services

☒ Other Public Veterinary Services

Non-profit Agency

☐ TNR Group

☐ Rescue Group

☒ Other 

Nonprofit, Rescue, Shelter, '

List the current President of your nonprofit organization (Not required of governmental agency):

Name	Title
Ken Slavin	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

1216 cats and 18 dogs were admitted.

1147 cats and 18 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

45 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

1055 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

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.

Cat Depot is a highly regarded feline resource center with a proven track record of providing comprehensive care for cats and supporting our community through veterinary services, education, and outreach programs. Our Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program is an essential component of our Community Cats Program, designed to humanely manage and stabilize the free-roaming cat population while improving their overall health and reducing the spread of disease. Our TNVR program is led by Dr. Michelle Cunningham, DVM, who has over 20 years of veterinary experience. As Cat Depot’s lead veterinarian, she oversees all TNVR medical procedures, including spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and microchipping, ensuring the highest standard of care for every cat treated through the program. In addition, Jenn Kennedy, Shelter & Intake Manager, coordinates the TNVR program. With over 10 years of shelter management experience, she is also a Certified Veterinary Technician and TNVR-certified by Dr. Rachel Geller. Jenn conducts on-site assessments of cat colonies, monitors colony populations, and ensures that colony caretakers—many of whom are clients of our Pet Food Bank—are in compliance with TNVR protocols. This proactive approach ensures that all cats within these colonies are sterilized, preventing further overpopulation. In 2024 alone, Cat Depot increased TNVR treatments by over 350% from 2023, performing over 400 TNVR procedures. This growth highlights both the demand for TNVR services in our community and

our organization's ability to scale operations effectively. Florida's warm climate allows for continuous year-round reproduction among outdoor cats, making TNVR an especially critical intervention to prevent exponential population growth. Beyond TNVR, Cat Depot operates a state-of-the-art facility with a Shelter Hospital for injured and ill stray cats and a Community Clinic that provides subsidized veterinary care. Additionally, we engage in community education and outreach, offering programs such as summer camps, yoga with cats, and nursing home visits—demonstrating our commitment to both feline welfare and public engagement. With experienced leadership, a proven track record of successful TNVR operations, and the capacity to expand our lifesaving efforts, Cat Depot is well-positioned to carry out this program and maximize its impact on our community.

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

Cat Depot currently operates a no-cost TNVR program designed to provide low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter services for community cats. Our program is designed to address the overpopulation of free-roaming and feral cats, and we offer these services free of charge for qualifying individuals and organizations. We have a robust infrastructure to support this work, including three transport vans to assist with the safe and efficient transport of cats from various locations. We collaborate closely with individual trappers, local organizations like Feline Friends, and Sarasota County Animal Control to ensure that cats from across Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto Countys are able to access our services. Additionally, we assist local cat colony caretakers and community members by lending traps or sending a trapper to help with the trapping process. This ensures that cats are safely and humanely trapped before being brought to our Shelter Hospital for spay/neuter, vaccination, and ear tipping—all at no cost to the individual or organization. Through this program, we are able to provide a critical service to both community cats and the people who care for them, furthering our mission to reduce the outdoor cat population in a humane and sustainable way.

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

**Cats:** 408 **Dogs:** 0

## Target Population

**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 ☒ S/N services where demand exceeds current resources. ☐ Other

**Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc. Be as specific as possible.):**

Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto County

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

Cat overpopulation in Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties is primarily driven by unsterilized free-roaming cats, many of which are abandoned or lost pets that join existing colonies and reproduce unchecked. Limited access to affordable spay/neuter services, especially in rural areas like DeSoto County, further exacerbates the issue, as financial and logistical barriers prevent many pet owners and caretakers from sterilizing cats. High rates of owner surrenders due to economic hardship and housing instability contribute to the problem, often resulting in more cats being released outdoors when shelters reach capacity. Florida's warm climate allows for nearly year-round breeding, leading to continuous "kitten booms" that overwhelm shelters and rescues. While TNVR programs have made significant progress in Sarasota and Manatee Counties, gaps remain, particularly in underserved areas where feral populations continue to grow unchecked. Misinformation, resistance to TNVR, and outdated policies that prioritize removal over sterilization further hinder progress. Addressing these challenges requires increased funding for TNVR initiatives, expanded spay/neuter access, and stronger community education efforts to promote responsible pet ownership and humane population control.

**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?**

Spay and neuter services in Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties are available but remain insufficient to meet the overwhelming need. The Humane Society of Manatee County performs over 6,000 surgeries annually, but costs average \$116 per cat, posing a barrier for many. The Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) offers discounted surgeries for low-income residents, starting at \$25, yet demand still exceeds capacity. Sarasota County is at a particular disadvantage, as the Humane Society of Sarasota County's veterinary clinic is not currently operating, further limiting access. With few affordable options and long wait times, many pet owners and colony caretakers struggle to obtain timely sterilization services—especially in rural areas like DeSoto. To fill this gap, Cat Depot must expand its TNVR efforts to prevent further population growth and reduce the number of cats suffering on the streets.

## Objectives

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

With the requested \$25,000 in funding, Cat Depot aims to expand its TNVR efforts by increasing the number of sterilized community cats by nearly 200% of last year's total. Our focus will be twofold: continuing to support individual trappers in DeSoto County, where TNVR resources are extremely limited, and addressing the growing need for TNVR in our local Sarasota-Manatee area due to the recent closure of the Humane Society's veterinary clinic. By targeting these underserved regions, we aim to prevent the birth of thousands of homeless kittens while improving the health and stability of existing outdoor cat populations.

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

In 2024, Cat Depot's TNVR program grew significantly, with treatments increasing by over 350% from 2023. At the end of the year, we completed 408 TNVR procedures, marking a substantial milestone in this revitalized program's growth and success. For 2025, we have committed to increasing our capacity by onboarding volunteer veterinarians and increasing our existing baseline of days in which TNVR is performed. In 2025, we will host biweekly TNVR days instead of monthly. Additionally, with the recent closure of the Humane Society's veterinary clinic, the demand for TNVR services in our area has grown significantly. These funds will help us step in to fill that gap, ensuring that more community cats receive the care they need and preventing thousands of future kittens from being born into homelessness.

## Methods

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

Eligibility for Cat Depot's TNVR program is determined based on several key criteria to ensure effective population management. Any community cat that does not have an ear tip is eligible for TNVR services, allowing us to focus on unaltered cats in need of sterilization. Additionally, any cat brought in by our dedicated volunteer trappers or local animal services qualifies for the program, ensuring that we address the most at-risk populations. We also work closely with caretakers who receive support from our Pet Food Bank. Our Shelter Manager monitors these local cat colonies to ensure responsible population control. To remain eligible for food assistance, caretakers must have all cats in their colony spayed or neutered and prevent new litters from being born. This approach helps maintain stable, healthy cat populations while reinforcing the importance of TNVR in our community.

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

Cat Depot promotes its TNVR program through a multifaceted marketing approach to effectively reach our target audience. Our in-house marketing efforts include leveraging multiple social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, and TikTok to engage the community and raise awareness. Additionally, we distribute press releases to local media, conduct email outreach through e-blasts, and utilize our LED marquee outside the shelter to share important updates. Beyond digital and traditional advertising, much of our TNVR outreach comes from our strong presence in the local community. We collaborate with volunteer trappers, cat colony caretakers, local animal services, and other animal welfare organizations to spread awareness and connect with those who need TNVR resources the most. Currently, we are also actively promoting a need for additional TNVR veterinary technician volunteers to expand our impact.

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

Cat Depot works to eliminate barriers to accessing our TNVR program by providing hands-on support to community members. We collaborate with a network of dedicated volunteer trappers, some of whom are bilingual, to assist those who may face language or communication challenges. For individuals who cannot transport cats themselves, we have three Cat Depot cargo vans available when needed. Additionally, we offer trap rentals and conduct site visits to assess colony populations, ensuring targeted and efficient TNVR efforts. For those unable to trap cats on their own, our experienced trappers can be dispatched to assist, making the program more accessible to those with physical limitations or limited resources. Through these efforts, we strive to make TNVR as inclusive and effective as possible.

### **Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe.**

Yes, this project sometimes involves the transportation of animals by Cat Depot staff as needed. We have three transport vans that are used to assist with the safe relocation of cats for TNVR services. Our Shelter & Intake Manager occasionally transports cats from as far as DeSoto County, ensuring that even communities with limited access to veterinary resources can benefit from our program. As our TNVR program continues to grow, we are open to expanding our transportation efforts to better serve the needs of trappers, colony caretakers, and community members who may face challenges in bringing cats to our facility.

## Veterinary Services

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

Our TNVR program relies on our in-house veterinary team and facilities.

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. This includes pain medication, ear tipping, and \$ 2 per animal for rabies vaccinations. Costs for licensing, testing, transport, etc. are not to be paid for with grant funds.**

	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="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
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?
<b>Examination</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Pain Medication*</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<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="\$10.34"/>
<b>HW Testing</b>	<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="\$8.50"/>
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<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="\$23.00"/>
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping*</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Microchip</b>	<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="\$15.90"/>
<b>Other</b>	<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="\$20.00"/>

**\* = REQUIRED by grant**

**Grant funds cannot be used for the above services except for pain medication, ear tipping, and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.**

**If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:**

Each cat undergoing a TNVR procedure at Cat Depot receives an FVRCP and rabies vaccine at no cost. As part of our comprehensive approach to feline health, we also offer additional medical services at affordable rates: Praziquantel Tapeworm Injection – \$10.34 Selamectin (Heartworm treatment) – \$8.50 FeLV Vaccine – \$20 To ensure that sterilized cats are easily identifiable, each TNVR cat receives a tattoo during surgery. Since Cat Depot operates a full-service Shelter Hospital, we also provide additional medical care, such as wound treatment, on a case-by-case basis. This allows us to address urgent health concerns while maintaining our focus on TNVR as a humane and effective solution for managing community cat populations.

**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
Feline Friends	Significant involvement as a trapping organization.
Individual Volunteers	This program relies on community volunteers. We have many volunteer trappers who monitor cat colonies in DeSoto County. We also have many veterinary tech volunteers who help facilitate TNVR days.
Local Media	This includes Suncoast Pet, SRQ Magazine, Bradenton Magazine, and Suncoast View SNN. Cat Depot publishes regularly in Suncoast Pet, is routinely shown on Suncoast View, and has recently advertised in Bradenton Magazine. Additionally, Cat Depot won several categories in SRQ Magazine's "Best of SRQ" awards. These awards will be announced in April, and we will get considerable local media coverage.
Manatee County Animal Services	A significant collaborator to our TNVR and intake.
Sarasota County Animal Services	A significant collaborator to our TNVR and intake.
Suncoast Animal Alliance	Cat Depot participates in their regular roundtable sessions with numerous local shelters geared towards strengthening our local shelter ecosystem.

## Other Information

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

Cat Depot's TNVR program operates with a structured tracking and reporting system to ensure efficiency and impact. Each cat is logged in a spreadsheet and included in weekly staff reports, allowing us to monitor progress, assess resource allocation, and adjust outreach efforts as needed. Our Shelter & Intake Manager conducts site visits to colonies, ensuring compliance with TNVR protocols and preventing unmanaged population growth. We are currently bolstering our outreach efforts for TNVR. Cat Depot will have an informational table at the county fair and is actively forming partnerships with local Farmer's Markets to table regularly as well. By combining meticulous tracking, direct community engagement, and accessible medical care, Cat Depot's TNVR program effectively stabilizes free-roaming cat populations while improving feline health and strengthening community partnerships.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 500 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$50.00

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

Cat Depot gets general funding from the following sources: adoption fees, events/fundraisers, retail sales, online donations,

donor-advised funds/foundations, bequests, and grants. In lieu of grant funding, TNVR costs are paid from Cat Depot's General Operating budget.

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

49%

**If not 100%, please elaborate.**

## 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:** 09/01/25/ **Projected end date:** 09/01/26

## 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.**

Cat Depot is deeply committed to revitalizing and expanding our TNVR program to better serve community cats and their caretakers. We actively seek private donations, grants, and fundraising opportunities to sustain and grow this critical program. We are increasing our community outreach efforts by tabling at events and engaging with local residents to spread awareness about TNVR services. To secure long-term sustainability, we are participating in the Rescue Roundtable with Best Friends Network, which will help us qualify for more substantial TNVR funding in the future. By combining grant funding, private donations, and expanded outreach, we are working to re-establish and strengthen our TNVR program to ensure continued success in managing free-roaming cat populations.

## Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

**\*Applicants selected for funding are expected to actively publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program and promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate. Publicity efforts should include press releases, newsletters, website links, and social media posts, among other strategies. Florida Animal Friend's marketing firm will provide assistance and advice, and partner with your organization to achieve coverage. 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 as part of their reporting obligations.**

Cat Depot will promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate through multiple channels, ensuring broad community awareness and engagement. We will issue press releases, prominently feature the program on our website and social media, and include information in our print and electronic newsletters. To further encourage participation, adopters who show proof of a Florida Animal Friend License Plate will receive a \$10 discount on adoption fees per cat. Beyond our internal promotions, Cat Depot regularly contributes to Suncoast Pet, providing an additional platform to highlight the importance of the FL Animal Friend program. We recently received a feature spread in Bradenton Magazine, expanding our outreach to a wider audience. Additionally, we anticipate significant publicity from our recent SRQ Magazine awards, further amplifying awareness of our mission and the importance of spay/neuter initiatives.

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

Unknown