

Grant ID: 2319

**Title of Proposal:** Florida Keys Spay/Neuter**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Florida Keys SPCA

## Application Information

## Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Florida Keys SPCA**Website Address:** <https://fkspca.org/>**Person Submitting Proposal:** Tiffany Dunsmore**Position:** Grant Writer**Person Submitting Proposal  
Email Address:** Tiffany@fkspca.org**Person Submitting Proposal  
Cell:** 315-558-0658**Organization Head:** Tammy Fox**Organization Head's Email:** Tammy@fkspca.org**Organization Business Address:** 5711 College Rd**City:** Key West**State:** FL**Zip:** 33040**Organization Business Phone  
(xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 305-294-4857**County:** Monroe**Organization Head's Cell:** 305-394-2942

## Agency Details

**EIN:0%"> EIN:** 65-0891564**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 01/27/1999**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/24 **End:** 12/31/24**Organization Income in Last  
Fiscal Year:** \$4,263,421.78**Organization Expenses in Last  
Fiscal Year:** \$3,346,369.20**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 30 Part Time: 3**How did you learn of the 2009  
Florida Animal Friend grant  
competition?** Previous beneficiary.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal  
Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend  
Applications:** Years Funded: 2019, 2021, 2023 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2009, 2011**Auto-Generated (Previous  
Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
86	2009	Community Low Cost and Free to Those in Need Spay Neuter Program	Denied
228	2011	FKSPCA Feral Cat Project	Denied
1868	2019	Florida Keys SPCA Spay Neuter	Funded
1982	2021	Florida Keys Spay/Neuter	Funded
2157	2023	Florida Keys Spay/Neuter	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

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

Name	Title
Jeff Johnson	Board President

**Applicant Qualifications****For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

**579 cats and 451 dogs were admitted.**

**489 cats and 419 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**74 cats and 30 dogs were euthanized.**

**233 cats and 155 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.**

The Florida Keys SPCA is the largest animal welfare organization in the Florida Keys and the only low-cost spay/neuter clinic available for pet owners within the island chain. Our organization serves the Middle and Lower Keys, from MM0-MM70 of the linear island chain of the Florida Keys. We have two brick and mortar locations in Key West and in Marathon. Our organization accepts every animal regardless of health, species and temperament, and work to find it a forever home. The Florida Keys SPCA is a participant in the Shelters Count program and our Live Release Rate was 92% in 2024. Our Key West campus has a state-of-the-art surgical suite as of 2019 and our Marathon Campus opened its first spay/neuter clinic in a donated surgical trailer in late 2020. We have also recently acquired a mobile unit to be able to go directly to areas that need it most. We will be targeting locations in between our physical locations to overcome the barrier of transportation for both pet owners and our TNR program, and will begin using it next month, April 2025. We currently have a full-time shelter veterinarian, clinic manager, veterinary assistant, and admin assistant dedicated to the clinic department who all prior experience at working in private veterinarian practices, giving us the experience we need on our clinic team to ensure a successful program.

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

The Florida Keys SPCA spays/neuters all dogs, cats and rabbits prior to adoption at both campuses. As well, we have a robust TNR program for community cats, free of charge. Our shelter department heads that include our Veterinarian, Clinic Manager, Animal Control Officer and Operations Director work together to ensure our residents that cannot afford these services have access for little or no cost. According to the most recent ALICE report, wages in our county are failing to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials, and specifically in the Lower and Middle Keys, an average of 43% of all households are below the ALICE line. Without our clinic, many pet owners would not be able to afford to sterilize their pets, which would ultimately increase the pet population. Our goal with our mobile unit is to provide the areas that need it most, but do not have the means or ability to travel to have access to our services at low or no cost. We currently offer three days a week dedicated solely to providing these services to the public with TNR included and the other two days are a mix of public surgeries, TNR and shelter animal surgeries. We currently fund our program through donations or fundraisers. This grant will allow us to further expand our spay/neuter services through our mobile unit for those in need.

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

**Cats: 698 Dogs: 426**

## 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.):**

Our target area is our animal control contracted area of Monroe County from mile marker 0 through mile marker 70 in the Middle and Lower Keys. We service all islands in the Florida Keys between these mile markers including the major islands of Key West, Sugarloaf Key, Big Pine Key and Marathon. This 70-mile radius includes the zip codes 33040, 33042, 33043, 33051, 33050 and 33001.

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

57% of dogs and cats surrendered to our shelter in 2024 were unaltered. Of this 57%, 24% were outdoor cats and 32% was a combination of Small Mixed Breed dogs and Pit Bull/Large Mixed Breed dogs from lower-income areas. While it's notable that the percentages have decreased over the last 2 years and our efforts are making some progress, we can tell that accidental litters from areas where either financial hardship or barrier to transportation are still contributing to these numbers in our target areas' overpopulation. Our goal is for these numbers to decrease dramatically once our mobile unit had had time to make an impact on our community.

**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?**

The Florida Keys SPCA and local private practice veterinarians are the only options in the target area that offer spay/neuter services. Due to our remote geographical location, cost of doing any business is higher than most areas of the country, and this is no different for private practice veterinarians. The FKSPCA is the only affordable clinic offering spay/neuter surgeries. Low income or poverty level pet owners cannot afford the cost of a sterilization surgery without it being low-cost or free. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, lack of affordable housing and tourism being the main source of income for many residents, it is clear that financial hardship is the a large reason pet owners need a low-cost option and cannot afford to use local private veterinary practices.

## Objectives

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

We hope to accomplish our mission of controlling the pet population as well as reduce the number of pet owners that surrender their pets due to financial restraints and/or behavior that could be prevented through sterilization. This funding would allow us to sterilize 400 dogs and cats in the area we serve. We can continuously measure our successes and make necessary adjustments in real time through our monthly intake reports. Now that we have an option to go where we are needed most with our mobile unit, we can target areas in our jurisdiction to ensure we are meeting our goals for our community and pet owners.

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

With the addition of our mobile unit, our clinic team now has the ability to go directly to areas where sterilization may not have been an option for pet owners due to the barrier of transportation, including feral cat colonies. This will undoubtedly increase the demand for our services for those in low-income areas that will not be able to afford the cost of these surgeries. With an increase in volume and days our sterilizations will be offered, this grant will allow our program to be sustained during our first year with our mobile unit, allowing us to properly plan our budget for future years.

## Methods

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

The only requirement for free services will be proof of residency within our 70-mile jurisdiction.

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

To reach our target audience we will work with several organizations such as the SOS Foundation, our local food pantry, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition who work directly with the homeless, as well as Forgotten Felines and Lower Keys Friends of Animals, who we work with for our TNR program and can locate cat colonies that are in need of sterilization. As the contracted animal control agency for our area, our officers work directly with our target audience and are able to promote our low-cost spay/neuter services with residents while in the field. We also do advertising with local publications and currently run a daily PSA about our spay/neuter services on US1 Radio, a local radio channel. Finally we advertise electronically in our free e-newsletter, and through social media on Facebook and Instagram with a combined 70K followers.

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

We are elated to finally be able to overcome the barrier of transportation with our mobile unit in addition to our 2 physical shelters. This allows us to go directly to areas that have been under-served in the past and assist those that are most in need, but are not able to travel to our locations. We will work with our community partners, local Housing Authorities and Animal Control Officers to guide us in the areas where we can make the greatest impact. We will make every possible effort to our diverse community members by having all clinic documents and instructions in both English and Spanish. As well, we have multiple staff members who are bilingual available to translate to confirm all verbal communications are understood by both parties.

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

This project does not involve the transportation of owned animals by someone other than the client. However, we do have community partners that work directly with feral cat colonies and assist transporting those cats to the shelter and back to their colonies if necessary. Now that we have our mobile unit, we will be able to go directly to areas that need sterilization services most, removing the need for our Animal Control Officers or other staff members to transport animals in our vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

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

We currently staff an in-house veterinarian.

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="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$71.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$71.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$100.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$114.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$114.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>

**Other Vaccination if Due** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes

**Pain Medication\*** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available ☒ No ☐ Yes

**Parasite Medication** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes

**HW Testing** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes

**Feline Leuk/FIV** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes

**County License** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes

**Ear tipping\*** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available ☒ No ☐ Yes

**Microchip** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☐ Yes

**Other** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available ☒ No ☐ Yes

**\* = REQUIRED by grant**

**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:**

As the county contracted animal control facility for mile marker 0 through mile marker 70, we are required to issue a county license and rabies vaccination if due. Pain medication is never optional and is built into our budget.

**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
Florida Keys Outreach Coalition	Assists communicating with in need and homeless pet owners about our services.
Forgotten Felines	Community Cat Trapping and Transportation assistance.
Keys Weekly	Local print ads promoting program.
Lower Keys Friends of Animals	Community Cat Trapping and Transportation assistance.
SOS Foundation	Local food pantry who donates pet food and information distribution.
US 1 Radio	On air promoting and daily running spay/neuter ads.

## Other Information

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

As the Center for Animal Welfare and Education in the Florida Keys, we find it necessary to be the place of resource for community pet owners. We offer several programs such as our behavior program & helpline, offering free behavior advice to any pet owner to keep pets in the home. Our Safe Haven program, taking in pets from victims of domestic abuse and caring for them completely free of charge until the owner can find a safe place for them to go. Our clinic program, where we offer low cost and affordable wellness services. However, the most important part of our mission is controlling the pet population and preventing more unwanted animals in our community. This requires an accessible and affordable spay/neuter program. This program is completely funded by donations and the Florida Animal Friend grant will allow the FKSPCA to designate funds that are necessary for free spay/neuter surgeries to our low-income residents that need it most as well as our community cat caretakers and organizations that would not have sterilization options otherwise. Now that we are able to go directly to those in need with our mobile unit, we hope to make an even greater impact than we ever have before. In 2024 we received 2 bequests that was a combination total of \$1,462,122 of our shelter donations. This is extremely uncommon for our organization and not something we can count on in the future. While we are exceedingly grateful that these individuals chose to leave us a lasting legacy that will help our animals beyond their own lifetime, we are hoping this does not affect the decision on whether or not we will receive this grant. Our spay/neuter program for both our own animals and the public, including our TNVR program, completely relies on grants, outside donations and fundraisers. We sincerely appreciate your consideration for our organization to be awarded this grant.

## Budget

### **Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 250 **Dogs:** 150

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$63.00

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

The FKSPCA hosts an annual fundraiser for our spay/neuter program to help absorb the costs for small animal spay/neuter surgeries, promotional expenses of printing and advertisements and any unforeseen costs that may occur such as potential hoarding cases. We are also the benefactor of an annual \$50,000 match in September through the Dogwood Foundation which we use for either our Spay/Neuter or Wellness Clinic, depending on which program is in need of it most at that time. We will continue to apply for local grants with our local community foundation.

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

100%

**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:** 08/01/25/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/26

### **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.**

As the introductory year of our mobile unit, we expect to have unforeseen additional costs due to the anticipated increase in volume now that we are able to service more areas of our community than ever before. This grant will provide us the funds and time we need to see what our actual costs will be, which will allow us to properly budget for the costs in the future through donations, clients that can afford to pay for their services and our annual fundraiser.

## 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.**

The FKSPCA will utilize every effort possible to advertise the benefits of the Florida Animal Friend license plate program. Currently the link is available on the home page of our website to ensure it is seen by the most traffic. We will promote on our social media pages, which between Facebook and Instagram, has a total combined 70K followers. We will advertise it in our monthly e-newsletter. We will send a press release to the 3 main news publications in the area we serve to maximize our reach. We will add an editorial piece to our Community News page on our website. We currently display the Florida Animal Friend promotional materials in our main lobby, at our clinic lobby, in our adoption packets, in our spay/neuter clinic discharge packets and we will be keep them in our mobile unit to distribute when doing our mobile clinics. We also currently have the Animal Friend license plate already on our new mobile unit to show our support of the program.

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

Unknown