

Grant ID: 2354

**Title of Proposal:** Saving Lives**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Humane Society Of Manatee County Inc

## Application Information

## Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Humane Society Of Manatee County Inc**Website Address:** 2515 14th St. W.**Person Submitting Proposal:** Valerie E Bliss**Position:** Director of Development**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** valerie@humanemanatee.org**Person Submitting Proposal Cell:** 941-713-2321**Organization Head:** Rick Yocum**Organization Head's Email:** rick@humanemanatee.org**Organization Business Address:** 2515 14th St. W.**City:** Bradenton**State:** FL**Zip:** 34205**Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 941-747-8808**County:** Manatee**Organization Head's Cell:** 941-405-7551

## Agency Details

**EIN:0% "> EIN:** 59-1819652**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:****Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/23 **End:** 09/30/24**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$3,727,555.51**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$3,057,857.83**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 27 Part Time: 5**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Email and Past grants**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2013**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
64	2009	Targeted Spay Neuter Grant	Funded
268	2011	Targeted S/N	Funded
351	2013	Targeted spay/neuter	Denied (not completed)
1407	2014	Pit Bull targeted spay/neuter	Denied
1496	2015	Help Pets, Empower People	Funded

1618	2006		Denied
1619	2007		Denied
1719	2017	Saving Lives	Funded
1853	2019	Saving Lives	Funded
2008	2021	Saving Lives	Funded
2172	2023	Saving Lives	Funded
2354	2025	Saving Lives	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
Tom Grier	Board President

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

**265 cats and 182 dogs were admitted.**

**219 cats and 163 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.**

**7 cats and 5 dogs were euthanized.**

**163 cats and 109 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 Humane Society of Manatee County has been a leader in animal welfare since the launch of its Humane Alliance model Spay/Neuter Clinic in April 2009. As the only high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Manatee County, our Veterinary Clinic plays a crucial role in reducing pet overpopulation and improving animal health. Annually, we perform over 5,056 spay/neuter surgeries, including 1,348 feral cat sterilizations, significantly decreasing the number of stray and homeless animals in our community and shelters. Our commitment to accessible veterinary care extends beyond sterilization services. We host free vaccine clinics throughout the year to support financially struggling pet owners, ensuring animals remain healthy and protected from preventable diseases. Additionally, our low-cost Dental Program continues to expand in response to growing community demand, providing essential dental examinations and procedures at affordable rates. Prevention remains at the core of our mission. We actively seek grant funding to offer free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for low-income residents, making responsible pet ownership attainable for all. As the leading animal welfare agency in Manatee County, our ability to offer critical programs and services is made possible through our state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic and the dedication of our Veterinary and Medical Director, Dr. Lindsey Rollend. Grant support will enable us to expand these lifesaving initiatives, reduce animal homelessness, and provide high-quality, affordable veterinary care to those in need.

**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 Humane Society of Manatee County offers a low-cost sterilization program for cats and dogs, including puppies and kittens over two months old and weighing at least two pounds. These services are available to the public and are a crucial part of our mission to reduce pet overpopulation. In addition to providing affordable spay/neuter surgeries for owned pets, we also offer sterilization

services for community and feral cats, which are brought to our Veterinary Clinic in humane traps. Over the years, we have secured multiple grants to support under-served residents and target specific breeds that contribute to overpopulation at the Manatee County Shelter. However, the Manatee County Low-Income Grant provides limited funding, which does not meet the increasing demand for spay/neuter services in our area. This growing need is primarily driven by the rapid population growth in Manatee County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county's population has increased 14.7% since 2020, leading to a rise in pet ownership. Currently, there are approximately 253,483 owned cats and dogs in Manatee County, and this number is projected to exceed 300,000 within five years. Without adequate funding for spay/neuter services, the risk of pet overpopulation, and shelter overcrowding will continue to grow. In addition to the organic growth of the number of owned pets, the need for low-to-moderate-cost veterinary care also continues to outpace the availability of that care. To address this urgent issue, the Humane Society of Manatee County remains committed to providing low/no-cost veterinary care to those in need. By expanding access to affordable spay/neuter surgeries, we can prevent unwanted litters, reduce the number of homeless animals, and support responsible pet ownership within our community.

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

**Cats:** 3204 **Dogs:** 1852

## 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.):**

Manatee County

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

Dog and cat overpopulation stems from several significant sources. One of the primary causes is uncontrolled breeding, as many pet owners fail to spay or neuter their animals, leading to unchecked reproduction and an increase in stray populations. Abandonment and neglect also play a major role, with pets often being left behind due to financial hardship, behavioral issues, or changes in their owner's living situation. Additionally, irresponsible pet ownership, such as allowing pets to roam freely, contributes to unplanned litters and further population growth. A lack of education and awareness about the importance of sterilization and responsible pet care exacerbates the issue, as many owners do not realize the long-term consequences of failing to control breeding. Lastly, inadequate shelter and rescue resources make it difficult for overwhelmed facilities to manage the growing number of stray and abandoned pets. Lastly, external factors such as natural disasters and economic hardships force some pet owners to surrender or abandon their animals when they can no longer provide for them. Addressing these issues requires education, stricter breeding regulations, accessible spay and neuter programs, and improved animal welfare policies.

**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?**

Currently, the Humane Society of Manatee County is the only organization providing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services in Manatee County. We offer high-quality, low- to moderate-cost spay and neuter surgeries to local residents and actively seek grant opportunities to provide free or low-cost sterilization services for low-income families whenever possible. Our TNR program ensures that individuals who regularly care for free-roaming and feral cats in their neighborhoods have access to essential sterilization services. Without funding for these initiatives, many caretakers would struggle to manage the growing cat population, often facing the difficult choice of surrendering these animals to local Animal Control shelters. By supporting TNR efforts, we help control overpopulation humanely, allowing these cats to remain safely in their communities while reducing the strain on local shelters.

## Objectives

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

The Trap-Neuter-Return program (TNR) is the humane solution to controlling the population of feral / free-roaming cats in Manatee County. This method has been endorsed by national animal welfare groups, as well as many animal services departments, as the best option for feral cats and the communities they inhabit. TNR stabilizes the colony size by eliminating new litters. It also reduces the nuisance behavior associated with unsterilized cats. TNR's most measurable effect is that fewer cats/kittens flow through animal shelters. "During our most recent fiscal year, we successfully performed 1,348 TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) surgeries. However, the demand for this critical program has outpaced our current funding. With additional financial support, we have the capacity to expand our impact and help even more animals in need. A grant from Florida Animal Friends would enable us to perform an additional 367

surgeries, significantly reducing the overpopulation of stray and feral cats in our community while improving their health and well-being."

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

The demand for spay and neuter services in this community far exceeds the available funding, highlighting the urgent need for additional financial support. Despite this challenge, we are confident in our ability to perform the additional surgeries without difficulty. Our fully equipped veterinary clinic has the capacity to handle a higher volume of procedures, thanks to our dedicated team of trained veterinarians and skilled technicians. With their expertise and commitment, we can efficiently and effectively provide these essential services to reduce the stray and feral cat population. Expanding our spay/neuter efforts will not only prevent the birth of unwanted litters but also improve overall animal welfare, reduce the strain on local shelters, and enhance public health by minimizing the risks associated with unvaccinated and free-roaming animals. By securing additional funding, we can continue offering high-quality, low-cost or free sterilization services, ensuring that every pet owner and community caregiver has access to these vital resources. Our goal is to create a sustainable, long-term solution to pet overpopulation while maintaining our commitment to humane and responsible animal care.

## Methods

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

Community cats are brought to our Veterinary Clinic in humane traps by rescue groups and community trappers, most of whom we have been collaborating with for years.

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

We will advertise this program on our social media sites, radio and local print. Our messaging will be bilingual.

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

All of our forms and marketing materials are bilingual. Our staff currently use Google Translate to help overcome language and cultural barriers. Our customer service team is exceptional and trained to assist every client. Additionally, we have a dedicated employee who manages and tracks the TNR program. Lastly, we are actively recruiting bilingual staff.

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

Rescue groups and Manatee County Animal Welfare transport TNR cats directly to our Veterinary Clinic.

## Veterinary Services

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

Our staff Veterinarian manages a team of Veterinarians contracted by the Humane Society of Manatee County. The Humane Society of Manatee County will act at the lead Veterinarian practice. Our team is prepared to meet additional demands if necessary.

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="\$60.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$75.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$305.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$305.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$350.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$350.00"/>

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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</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="\$25.00"/>
<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="\$50.00"/>
<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="\$15.00"/>
<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="\$25.00"/>
<b>County License</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="\$25.00"/>
<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="\$15.00"/>
<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="\$25.00"/>

**\* = 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:**

The information provided above applies to our regular clients; however, for this specific funding opportunity, if granted, we will also include a Rabies vaccine and a microchip at no cost for clients who are unable to pay. This added support ensures that animals not only receive essential sterilization but are also vaccinated and properly identified, promoting both public safety and responsible pet ownership. Additionally, the pricing for spay/neuter surgeries under this funding request aligns with the amount we receive through the Manatee County low-income grant. By maintaining consistent pricing, we can effectively allocate resources while maximizing the number of animals served. This approach allows us to continue offering high-quality, accessible veterinary care to underserved members of our community, further advancing our mission of reducing pet overpopulation and enhancing animal welfare.

**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
Gulf Shore Animal League	Gulf Shore Animal League is an organization that traps feral cats and would be labeled a TNR group. The Humane Society of Manatee County performs the surgeries for the trapped cats from Gulf Shore Animal League
Manatee County Animal Welfare	This is our local County Animal Services and Shelter. They have agreed to help disseminate information through road officers and when people come in to redeem their pets. They are also the organization that will provide intake and euthanasia data to chart the progress of the grant.

## Other Information

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

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a humane and effective method for managing and reducing feral cat populations. By spaying, neutering, and vaccinating cats before returning them to their territories, TNR prevents future litters, improves overall health, and reduces nuisance behaviors like fighting, yowling, and spraying. Unlike ineffective catch-and-kill methods, TNR stabilizes colonies over time, easing the burden on shelters and lowering euthanasia rates. The demand for our TNR services at the Humane Society has grown significantly, highlighting the urgent need for additional resources to meet community needs. TNR is also a cost-effective, long-term solution that fosters community involvement and creates a healthier environment for both animals and residents. By supporting TNR, communities can work toward a sustainable, humane approach to managing stray and feral cat populations.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 367 **Dogs:** 0

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$69.00

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

Seven months ago, we received funding from the Bishop Parker Foundation to assist with spay/neuter services for financially challenged families and to support our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts. In addition to this, we established the Spay it Forward fund, encouraging clinic clients and community members to participate. Last fiscal year, this initiative raised over \$14,545, directly benefiting those in need of these critical services. We are now requesting additional funding to cover the increasing demand for services for low-income residents and to further support the expansion of our TNR program. As mentioned previously, we are the only facility in the entire county that provides TNR services, making our role essential in controlling the stray and feral cat population. With the demand for our services growing, we are committed to continuing to seek funding to ensure we can meet the needs of our community and effectively address the overpopulation issues that affect both pets and local shelters.

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

42

**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:** 08/25/25/    **Projected end date:** 08/24/26

### **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.**

One of the key initiatives and priorities of our Board of Directors is ensuring that we can meet the growing demand for our spay/neuter program and expand veterinary services in our community. In 2021, our organization partnered with a leading strategy-building company to develop a comprehensive business plan that outlines a clear path for expanding veterinary services at our clinic to better serve local needs. In the past few months, we took further steps to solidify our long-term vision by contracting with a Strategic Planning Consultant. Collaborating with staff and the Board of Directors, we have now developed a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan that covers all of our programs and the organization as a whole. This plan will guide us as we work to scale our operations and enhance our impact on the community. Additionally, our organization creates and executes a detailed Development Plan, which sets out a variety of goals, strategies, and tactics to raise the income necessary to support our programs. This plan ensures that we have the financial resources to sustain and expand our initiatives, allowing us to continue addressing the needs of our community and supporting the long-term success of our mission.

## 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.**

Information on the License Plate program is on our website. In addition, we include a pamphlet in every adoption packet and we also have a full display of the pamphlet in our shelter lobby and our clinic lobby.

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

2