

Grant ID: 2332

Title of Proposal: Ending Unwanted Litters: A Community Approach to Spay/Neuter

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Humane Society of North Central Florida

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Humane Society of North Central Florida

Person Submitting Proposal: Franziska RAeber

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: franziska@humanesocietyncfl.org

Organization Head: Chelsea Bower

Organization Business Address: 4205 NW 6th Street

State: FL

Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): (352)373-5855

Organization Head's Cell:

Website Address: 4205 NW 6th Street

Position: Director of Development

Person Submitting Proposal Cell: (609)933-0446

Organization Head's Email: chelsea@humanesocietyncfl.org

City: Gainesville

Zip: 32609

County: Alachua

Agency Details

EIN:0%"> EIN: 59-1908492

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 01/01/1980

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/24 **End:** 12/31/24

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$4,141,082.41

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$3,024,902.97

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 32 Part Time: 22

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

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2016 2018 2020 2022 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2024

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1907	2020	Fix North Central Florida's At-Risk Pets	Funded
2062	2022	Fix North Central Florida's At-Risk Pets	Funded
2220	2024	Fix North Central Florida's At-Risk Pets	Denied
2332	2025	Ending Unwanted Litters: A Community Approach to 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 Low Cost Vaccine/Wellness

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

Name	Title
Danielle Richter	Board President

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

1159 cats and 600 dogs were admitted.

1100 cats and 550 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

21 cats and 15 dogs were euthanized.

2634 cats and 2222 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 North Central Florida (HSNCF) is dedicated to ending the needless euthanasia of adoptable pets in North Central Florida. We shelter animals transferred from 21 municipal shelters, prioritizing treatable pets at risk of euthanasia, including senior animals, heartworm-positive dogs, and underage kittens. Understanding that adoptions alone cannot solve pet overpopulation, we operate Operation PetSnip, one of the community's low-cost, high-volume spay/neuter clinics for both dogs and cats. As the lead agency for the Alachua County Animal Welfare Coalition for over 13 years, HSNCF has extensive experience in program management and statistical tracking. Our Operation PetSnip clinic has already performed over 50,000 sterilizations and has the capacity to perform even more. With a fully equipped on-site surgical facility and three full-time, highly trained surgeons, we ensure efficient and high-quality care. Thanks to recent grants, we've modernized and expanded our facility, replacing outdated surgical tables, safety equipment, and recovery mats, which have significantly improved surgical outcomes and post-op recovery. This infrastructure and expertise allow us to successfully implement and sustain this 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

Operation PetSnip at the Humane Society of North Central Florida is one of the community's only low-cost, high-volume spay/neuter clinics for both cats and dogs. Our dedicated team sterilizes an average of 30 pets per day, four days a week. In addition to our clinic services, we actively collaborate with local volunteers and organizations to conduct spay/neuter outreach in our rural surrounding counties. These volunteers engage directly with local pet owners, helping them register for either low-cost or free sterilization services at our clinic, ensuring broader access to essential spay/neuter care throughout the region.

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

Cats: 2634 Dogs: 2222

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.):

Zip Codes 32609 32608 32607 32606 32605 32603

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

The targeted area represents 54.4% of Alachua County's population, with 49% to 64% of residents living below the poverty line. Additionally, both human and pet homelessness have increased in this region. We work closely with Grace Marketplace, which supports our observations that many unaltered dogs, in particular, are abandoned near the shelter or in surrounding wooded areas. A significant portion of the homeless population struggles to afford spay/neuter services and, as a result, may mistakenly resort to breeding as a means of generating income. These combined factors contribute to the ongoing cycle of pet overpopulation in the region. Addressing this issue requires not only affordable sterilization services but also outreach and education to break the cycle of breeding and abandonment.

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 population we are targeting faces significant challenges in accessing affordable and accessible spay/neuter services due to financial constraints and transportation barriers. Private veterinarians in Alachua County charge \$200 or more for sterilization procedures, making these services unattainable for many low-income pet owners. While Operation Catnip has successfully focused on sterilizing community cats—leading to a noticeable decline in abandoned cats and further proving that targeted sterilization efforts work—dog overpopulation remains a critical issue. The growing number of unaltered dogs continues to strain shelters and rescue resources, making this a top priority for intervention. Additionally, the recent closure of Remedy (formerly St. Francis Pet Care) has left the Humane Society of North Central Florida as one of the last remaining providers of truly low-cost veterinary care in the region. Through our Operation PetSnip program, we offer reduced-cost spay/neuter services at \$150 for cats and \$175 for dogs. However, a significant service gap remains, particularly for pet owners in extreme poverty or those resistant to sterilization. For these individuals, even our reduced rates are unaffordable, and free spay/neuter services are often the only viable solution to prevent unplanned litters and curb pet overpopulation in our community.

Objectives

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

Our objective is to spay 143 dogs owned by very low-income or spay/neuter-resistant pet owners by August 2026. We prioritize dogs due to the significant challenges they present in terms of resource demands and overpopulation in the region. By focusing on this group, we aim to make a measurable impact on reducing pet overpopulation and improving the well-being of both animals and the community.

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

Our objective for the requested funds is to increase spay/neuter surgeries by at least 145 procedures above the 2024-2025 baseline for the targeted area. To achieve this, we will implement focused efforts by collaborating closely with Animal Resource Officers, Grace Marketplace, and community members. Our low-cost wellness and vaccine clinic will further support sterilization, as our experience has shown that cost is a major barrier for many pet owners. With this grant, our clinic will be able to address that barrier directly, securing on-the-spot commitments from pet owners to have their pets sterilized. This program will particularly benefit pet owners who would otherwise be unable to afford sterilization due to severe economic hardship or who may be resistant to spay/neuter due to cultural or educational reasons.

Methods

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

Eligibility for our program will be determined based on the following criteria: Financial Need – Pet owners must demonstrate significant financial hardship, such as participation in government assistance programs (e.g., SNAP, Medicaid, SSI) or other indicators of low income. Residency – Priority will be given to applicants who reside within the targeted zip codes: 32609, 32608, 32607, 32606, 32605, and 32603. Spay/Neuter Resistance – Priority will be given to pet owners who have been identified as hesitant or resistant to sterilization due to financial concerns, misinformation, or cultural beliefs. Outreach efforts will focus on education and overcoming these barriers. Community Referrals – We will work closely with Animal Resource Officers, Grace Marketplace, and other community partners to identify pet owners in need who may not actively seek out spay/neuter services. Unaltered Dogs in High-Risk Situations – Given the challenges associated with unaltered dogs in terms of overpopulation and resource strain, priority will be given to owners of

intact dogs, especially those at risk of accidental breeding or abandonment. By using these criteria, we aim to ensure that the program effectively reaches the pet owners who need it most and will have the greatest impact on reducing pet overpopulation.

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

To ensure our spay/neuter program reaches the target audience, we will use a multi-faceted outreach strategy tailored to low-income pet owners and individuals who are resistant to sterilization. Our approach will include: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & DIRECT OUTREACH Grace Marketplace & Homeless Outreach – We will work closely with Grace Marketplace to reach pet owners experiencing homelessness or severe financial hardship. Informational materials and on-site registration will be available to remove barriers to participation. Animal Resource Officers – Officers interacting with pet owners in the community will distribute flyers and refer eligible individuals directly to our program. Local Food Pantries & Assistance Programs – We will place materials at locations serving low-income residents, such as food banks, churches, and community centers. TARGETED DIGITAL & PRINT ADVERTISING Social Media Campaigns – We will use Facebook, Instagram, and neighborhood groups like Nextdoor to reach pet owners in the target zip codes, utilizing paid and organic posts in both English and Spanish. Localized Flyers & Posters – We will distribute materials at high-traffic areas, including laundromats, convenience stores, and veterinary clinics in the targeted areas. ON-SITE INCENTIVES & COMMITMENT STRATEGIES Wellness & Vaccine Clinic Integration – During wellness visits, our staff will actively discuss the program with pet owners and offer on-the-spot scheduling to increase follow-through. Incentives for Participation – We will explore small incentives, such as free pet supplies, to encourage hesitant pet owners to commit to the surgery. By leveraging trusted community partners, targeted digital outreach, and direct engagement, we will ensure this program effectively reaches and serves the pet owners who need it most.

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

TRANSPORTATION: The Humane Society of North Central Florida (HSNCF) will collaborate with local community partner agencies such as Grace Marketplace to assist pet owners who face transportation challenges, ensuring they can access spay/neuter services. ILLITERACY: Since our outreach model is built on direct personal engagement and referrals from trusted community partners, we do not anticipate illiteracy being a significant barrier. Our team will provide verbal assistance and simplified materials as needed to ensure accessibility. CULTURAL HURDLES: To foster trust and inclusivity, our staff and outreach volunteers will reflect the cultural diversity of the communities we serve. Additionally, we will work with community leaders to address concerns and misconceptions about spay/neuter, ensuring culturally sensitive outreach.

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

No, this project does not involve transportation of animals by someone other than the client.

Veterinary Services

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

The Humane Society of North Central Florida operates our community's local ASPCA/Humane Alliance model spay/neuter clinic, Operation PetSnip. The surgeries for this project will be performed by our team of highly skilled veterinarians and technicians, who have extensive experience in high-volume spay/neuter procedures. Operation PetSnip's capacity and expertise ensure that we can efficiently and safely handle the surgeries required for this program.

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
Operation Petsnip at HSNCF	4205 NW 6th Street	Gainesville	FL	32609	(352)373-5855	<input checked="" 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. 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="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$175.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$175.00"/>

Range for Female Dogs

\$0.00

\$175.00

\$175.00

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** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available☒ No ☐ Yes**Rabies Vaccination if Due** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**Other Vaccination if Due** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**Pain Medication*** ☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available☒ No ☐ Yes**Parasite Medication** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$20.00**HW Testing** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**Feline Leuk/FIV** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**County License** ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**Ear tipping*** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available☒ No ☐ Yes**Microchip** ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available☐ No ☒ Yes \$30.00**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:

Ear tipping is only performed for cats that are returned to a feral or barn setting, and as this application focuses solely on dogs, it will not be applicable to the program. All surgeries for this initiative will be limited to spaying and neutering dogs, with no ear tipping involved.

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
Alachua County Animal Resources and Care	Alachua County Animal Resources and Care has an ongoing partnership with the Humane Society of North Central Florida to promote HSNCf's programs and humane education efforts in the community. ACARC will also help HSNCf's outreach efforts by providing data on the zip codes and neighborhoods where they frequently encounter stray or unaltered animals.
Fix Them All	Fix Them All and the Humane Society of North Central Florida work together to help target animals in our targeted area who may otherwise end up at the county shelter without the help of free spay/neuter surgeries.
GRACE Marketplace	GRACE Marketplace and the Humane Society of North Central Florida work together to help target animals who may otherwise end up at the county shelter without the help of free spay/neuter surgeries.
Peaceful Paths	Peaceful Paths and the Humane Society of North Central Florida work together to help target animals who may otherwise end up at the county shelter without the help of free spay/neuter surgeries.
Second Chance Rescue & Rehoming	Second Chance Rescue & Rehoming and the Humane Society of North Central Florida work together to help target animals who may otherwise end up at the county shelter without the help of free spay/neuter surgeries.

Other Information

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

The Humane Society of North Central Florida (HSNCf) will proactively engage low-income pet owners and those resistant to spay/neuter through our Operation PetSnip program. Partnering with like-minded organizations, we will eliminate key barriers—financial hardship, cultural resistance, and lack of access—to increase sterilization rates. With no other providers focusing exclusively on dogs in this underserved region, our program is critical. Many targeted zip codes include homeless encampments where dogs provide essential companionship, yet unplanned litters create additional hardship. By offering free spay/neuter services, we can reduce pet overpopulation, prevent unnecessary shelter surrenders, and support vulnerable pet owners—strengthening both animal welfare and the human-animal bond. In some cases, this program can also help individuals secure stable housing, as pet restrictions often prevent unhoused owners from accessing shelters or permanent housing opportunities.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 0 **Dogs:** 143

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$175.00

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

Grant funds will be used exclusively to cover the cost of spay/neuter surgeries for dogs belonging to low-income pet owners or those resistant to sterilization. Additional services, including rabies and other core vaccines, microchipping, deworming, and preventative medications, will be offered at a low-cost rate to pet owners. While these services are not covered by the grant, they will be available as optional add-ons to support the overall health of each pet. Additionally, we have secured DAPPv vaccines through a Petco Love grant, allowing us to provide this lifesaving vaccine to dog owners free of charge.

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.**

Spay/neuter remains a core component of the Humane Society of North Central Florida's mission, and as euthanasia rates decline due to these efforts, we anticipate growing community support for these programs. HSNCF will continue seeking grants and donations to provide targeted free sterilization services while leveraging our high-volume spay/neuter clinic to keep costs low, making these services more accessible. We will track data and measurable outcomes to demonstrate impact, using these results to strengthen our case for continued funding. By sharing success stories with donors, grant makers, and corporate partners, we aim to secure sustainable financial support to expand and maintain this vital program.

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 Humane Society of North Central Florida is grateful for the investment Florida Animal Friend, Inc. is making on behalf of our state's pets. We will acknowledge the Florida Animal Friend grant program through a dedicated press release, on social media, and on our website. Additionally, we will promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate through a permanent display in our reception and at adoption events, as well as through links on our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and other social media platforms.

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

Unknown