

Grant ID: 2317

Title of Proposal: Hillsborough County Cat Assistance**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Humane Society of Tampa Bay

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency:	Humane Society of Tampa Bay	Website Address:	https://humanesocietytampa.org/
Person Submitting Proposal:	Lisa Novorska	Position:	Donor and Community Engagement Manager
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:	lisan@humanesocietytampa.org	Person Submitting Proposal Cell:	813-220-0950
Organization Head:	Sherry Silk	Organization Head's Email:	SherryS@HumaneSocietyTampa.org
Organization Business Address:	3607 N. Armenia Avenue	City:	Tampa
State:	FL	Zip:	33607
Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):	813-774-4344	County:	Hillsborough
Organization Head's Cell:	813-625-3449		

Agency Details

EIN:0% "> EIN: 59-0799907**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:** \$17,711,012.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$14,508,158.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 120 Part Time: 0**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?**

We have been fortunate to be a past recipient of the Florida Animal Friend Grant.

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):**Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2022, 2020, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012, 2010 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2024**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
49	2009	Saving Lives	Denied
169	2010	Community Cats	Funded
290	2012	Community Cats	Funded
1416	2014	Tampa Free Roaming Cats	Funded

1607	2007		Funded
1637	2016	Tampa Free Roaming Cats	Funded
1754	2018	Hillsborough Pit Bulls and Free Roaming Cats	Funded
1885	2020	TNVR - Hillsborough County	Funded
2082	2022	Hillsborough County Cat Assistance	Funded
2232	2024	Hillsborough County Cat Assistance	Denied (not completed)
2317	2025	Hillsborough County Cat Assistance	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
Sarah Glaser	President, Board of Directors

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

6244 cats and 4580 dogs were admitted.

5218 cats and 4149 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

707 cats and 408 dogs were euthanized.

3661 cats and 2620 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.

Since 2007, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay has been performing feral and community cat surgeries for our TNVR program every Monday. Dr. Karla Bard is our Director of Medical Operations and she oversees this program. She has worked at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay for over 17 years and is a graduate of the University of Florida Veterinary School. In addition to Dr. Bard, we have 9 other veterinarians at our full service animal hospital who can assist with surgeries when needed. In 2014, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay's animal hospital was the first non-profit hospital in Florida to receive accreditation by AAHA. We received this certification again in 2016, 2019, and 2022 as well. Since 2007, we have sterilized over 86,000 feral and community cats through our TNVR 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

We currently have a TNVR program and have sterilized over 86,000 cats through this program since 2007. There is not enough funding for free-roaming and community cats, and many people who care for these cats cannot afford to get all of them sterilized. We would like to offer free TNVR services to help reduce the overpopulation of unwanted cats in our community. This program helps to reduce the unnecessary euthanasia of cats in the county municipal shelter and will reduce the number of cats coming in to both our shelter and the county shelter. This will positively impact the overall save rate for cats in our county.

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

Cats: 4024 Dogs:

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.):

Hillsborough County

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

Free roaming, feral, and community outdoor cats that are unsterilized significantly add to cat overpopulation by having multiple litters every year. We see thousands of kittens coming into the shelter each year due to this overpopulation. Left unchecked, the cat populations multiply very rapidly and more sterilization efforts are needed to control the overpopulation in these groups in our county.

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?

Hillsborough County offers a spay/neuter voucher program for residents receiving public assistance where the cost of the surgery plus a rabies shot is \$10. These services are only available for owned pets and not for community and feral cats, leaving thousands of cats still in need of sterilization services to control overpopulation.

Objectives

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

With funding from Florida Animal Friend, we will provide free spay/neuter surgeries for 455 outdoor cats in Hillsborough County at no cost to the public. We will perform the surgeries for \$55 per cat and provide pain medication, rabies vaccine, and an FVRCP vaccine for each cat as well. We will also ear-tip all free-roaming and community cats. Our goal is to reduce the number of cat intakes and cats euthanized in Hillsborough County.

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

This program will allow us to sterilize almost 38 extra cats per month (for a total of 455 cats; we will cover the small difference remaining after the \$25,000 in funding is utilized to be sure all 455 cats are sterilized.) This will help to further reduce pet overpopulation, especially in Hillsborough County Shelters. We continue to see a very high volume of cat intakes, and a significant number of them are from public drop offs of litters of kittens born to outside cats. Providing more spay/neuter services for the public will help to decrease the number of homeless kittens born to outside cats.

Methods

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

We will sterilize cats who go outside and have an owner who lives in Hillsborough County as well as free-roaming cats who have a caretaker in Hillsborough County. All cats will be vaccinated and free-roaming cats will also be ear-tipped.

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

We will advertise this program on our website (with over 50,000 clicks per month), on our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Pages (with a combined reach of almost 160,000 followers), and on our regular segments with media outlets such as Fox 13, NBC News Channel 8, ABC, and CBS, as well as Q105, 98 Rock, and 93.3 radio stations. We will also advertise through our email list to over 85,000 subscribers and have flyers available at both our shelter and Animal Health Center to promote this program and recognize Florida Animal Friend.

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

We are very centrally located in Hillsborough County and easily accessible via public transportation, rideshare, and car. We also have volunteers who are able to transport people with disabilities or lack of any transportation to the animal hospital if requested. Our

Community Outreach and TNVR Coordinator can also take our transport van out to the county shelter or locations with multiple cats needing to be sterilized (such as apartment complexes and trailer parks) to transport them back to the animal hospital. To improve accessibility to multiple cultures in our area, the flyers can be translated into Spanish and we can have Spanish translators available to assist clients when they arrive.

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

Most animals will be transported by the client. Our TNVR transport van can also be used to help transport cats from specific locations or from the county shelter. Both our highly experienced Community Outreach and TNVR Coordinator and the transport vehicle will be covered by the Humane Society of Tampa Bay insurance. All animals will be transported in traps for safety.

Veterinary Services

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

We have 10 veterinarians, including our shelter veterinarians. Two veterinarians typically perform spay/neuter surgeries for the public and the others can assist as needed in addition to seeing wellness patients and performing specialty surgeries at our animal hospital.

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="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
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?
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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Pain Medication*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
HW Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$42.00"/>
County License	<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"/>
Ear tipping*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes

Microchip ☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available ☐ No ☒ Yes \$35.00

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:

Spay/Neuter Surgery, Rabies Vaccine, FVRCP Vaccine, ear tipping, and pain medications will all be provided at no cost to the client. HSTB will cover the cost for the FVRCP vaccine since that is not covered by the grant funding.

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
Animeals Program/Meals on Wheels	The Humane Society of Tampa bay offers a food assistance program called Animeals, which is essentially a "Meals on Wheels" type of program for animals. We have volunteer drivers who deliver pet food to elderly, disabled, and homebound people every month to allow them to keep their pets at home. Meals on Wheels refers people in need to us for this program so that we can ensure that the pets are receiving proper pet food and supplies. Many of these recipients also feed outdoor cats and we provide TNVR services to these cats to be sure that they are sterilized and vaccinated.
Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center	We work closely with the Pet Resource Center and will continue to perform TNVR services for rescue groups in Hillsborough County who receive certificates from the Pet Resource Center for surgeries. They can also help us publicize the free spay/neuter services available to those in the community who would benefit from this grant.
Kitten Place	We work with this rescue group to assist them with providing sterilization services for feral and community cats. They will also be able to refer residents from the community to us who would benefit from free sterilization services.
Local Media	We have regular TV Segments scheduled with local news and radio stations, such as FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, and Q105, 98 Rock, and 93.3 FLZ. We will be able to advertise the grant through these media outlets to help spread the word about this service to the Hillsborough County community.
Rescue Pets of Florida	We work closely with this local rescue group, and they will be able to help refer residents with community and/or free-roaming cats who would benefit from getting their cats sterilized with the help of this grant.
St. Francis Animal Rescue	We do a lot of work with this rescue group to help sterilize their pets. They will be able to refer residents with free-roaming and/or community cats to us to receive services as a result of this grant.

Other Information

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

Overpopulation of cats continues to be a huge problem facing our local shelters, and our cat intakes are always very high. We are confident that this grant will help reduce the number of homeless cats and help to eliminate cats being turned away because shelters are so full, as well as reducing unnecessary euthanasia at shelters. Please note that we have not yet completed our tax filings for 2024, so the financial documents provided from 2024 are not the final audited versions, but there should not be any significant changes in the audited version. We are including the Form 990 filed for 2023 as that is the last one filed with the IRS as of now.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 455 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$55.00

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

We host a fundraising dinner every year to raise funds for the feral and community cat/TNVR program. We will also continue to look for other grants to help provide funding for this important program. Other costs are allocated in our annual budget.

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

7%

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:** 08/31/26

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.**

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay will continue to offer affordable TNVR services in the future. We will actively pursue additional grant funding for the TNVR program to allow us to perform this service for the public at little to no cost and host a fundraising dinner to raise funds for our TNVR program. We will allocate funds to this program in our annual budget to ensure that it will continue to operate.

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.**

We will promote the sale of the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter license plates through our newsletter, on the website, on social media, and on our weekly spots with local news stations.

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

Unknown