

Grant ID: 2356

Title of Proposal: Fix the Future**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)**Person Submitting Proposal:** Linda C Norman**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** linda.norman@vocalforpets.org**Organization Head:** Lauren.Carpenter@vocalforpets.org**Organization Business Address:** 6393 SW 52nd Street**State:** FL**Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 352-289-0800**Organization Head's Cell:** 937-725-7356**Website Address:** 6393 SW 52nd Street**Position:** Co Founder**Person Submitting Proposal Cell:** 352-895-3132**Organization Head's Email:** Lauren.Carpenter@Vocalforpets.org**City:** Ocala**Zip:** 34474**County:** Marion

Agency Details

EIN:0% "> EIN: 47-3165668**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 02/19/2015**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/24 **End:** 12/31/24**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,900,382.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,612,885.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 13 Part Time: 4**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** prior recipient**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1861	2019	Fix the Future	Denied
1902	2020	VOCAL Fix the Future	Denied
1984	2021	Fix the Future	Funded
2156	2023	Fix the Future	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
Lauren Carpenter	Board President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

64 cats and 132 dogs were admitted.

52 cats and 152 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

2079 cats and 1487 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.

Our mission is to solve the homeless pet problem in our community and that begins with sterilization. Our low-cost clinic opened in late 2019 and has vetted more than 20,000 pets since inception. The vast majority are surgeries. We also offer wellness and dental services. Our lead veterinarian, Dr. Natalie Isaza was the Shelter Medicine Professor at UF for 16 years teaching veterinary students. She is extremely knowledgeable and skilled.

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

Our Fix the Future program is our signature program. Even before we had our clinic, we had a voucher program for sterilization of pets using local veterinarians. Now we do it in-house and typically do 3600 + spay-neuter surgeries each year.

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

Cats: 2079 Dogs: 1487

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.):

Marion County Florida

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

Free-roaming cats, and dogs and cats from low-income households are a significant source of overpopulation in Marion County. Our Project Feed targets low-income households so we see it firsthand. Our TNR team is out in the field and also has first hand awareness of the scope of the problem.

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?

We have several low-cost clinics available in Marion County including: The Humane Society of Marion co., Sheltering Hands (cats only) Paw Prints, and VOCAL. Our county shelter also does SNR for cats and some public spay-neuter. Nevertheless, the demand still exceeds availability. Marion County is experiencing high growth which also means more pets are brought in to the area.

Objectives

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

Vocal is a resource for people who love their animals but may not have sufficient resources for sterilization surgery, or even basic humane veterinary care. This also includes colony caregivers who want to do the right thing, but the cost of spay-neuter of multiple animals is out of reach. Our goal is to expand our outreach to under-resourced pets to stop overpopulation at its root cause. We identify these pets through our Project Feed Program, low-cost vaccine clinics and TNR programs, which includes CATT a collaboration between several organizations.

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

3600 is our baseline number. We can sterilize an additional 435 animals with this grant.

Methods

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

We have relationships with many of the under-resourced pet owners through our Project Feed program. Sterilization is required of pets to stay in that program. We also have a TNR team in the field trapping cats, an application process that identifies the need and resources available, as well as working with the CATT team to help sterilize large colonies.

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

We use social media to reach our audience, as well as word of mouth. We hand out flyers during food pick-up and at our weekly vaccine clinics.

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

For cat colonies, we send out trappers to people who need help trapping or transporting. With owned cats we loan out carriers and in some cases traps if they can handle themselves. Cultural hurdles are overcome with the relationships that we build through our Project Feed program and weekly vaccine clinics. Some transportation issues remain a challenge. This is something we hope to address in the future.

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

Yes, our trappers use their own vehicles to transport the animals that they trap. We have a liability waiver that they sign and a training program. We also collaborate with CATT and those trappers bring the animals. We have a dedicated Outreach Coordinator who coordinates the trappers and handles the training.

Veterinary Services

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

We have 5 contracted veterinarians, including our lead veterinarian, Dr. Natalie Isaza. We also partner with Bissell to utilize their veterinarians for high-volume spay-neuter days for low-income clients. This enables us to leverage our resources to perform more no-cost or very low-cost surgeries.

Are they: ☒ In-House Veterinarian ☐ Outside Clinic ☐ Combination

Participating veterinary practices if surgeries will not be performed in-house:**Fee Range**

What is the fee range to be paid for spay and neuter and what is the distribution to be paid by the client vs. the grant program?

Keep in mind that Florida Animal Friend grant funds may only be used for costs directly associated with sterilization surgery. This includes pain medication, ear tipping, and \$ 2 per animal for rabies vaccinations. Costs for licensing, testing, transport, etc. are not to be paid for with grant funds.

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$105.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$105.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$105.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$105.00"/>

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="\$12.00"/>
Other Vaccination if Due	<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"/>
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="\$20.00"/>
HW Testing	<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="\$18.00"/>
Feline Leuk/FIV	<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="\$20.00"/>
County License	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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	<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="\$20.00"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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:

Pain meds and ear-tipping are included in the price. If rabies is due we will require them. All other services are optional. We will strongly encourage a microchip for owned animals.

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
Cat Alliance from Tip to Tail (CATT)	We are a receiving clinic for large colonies that are trapped by this collaborative group. It includes Sheltering Hands, the Humane Society of Marion County, Quality of Life Rescue, Melissa Bell's rescue and others. Depending on availability we will sterilize and vet the cats free of charge.
Marion County Animal Services	We are planning a community-wide spay-neuter day with MCAS and possibly one other clinic. This will utilize our clinic for the surgeries and our office as a staging area for animals who are recovering. We have also done this in the past on "Big Fix" days. MCAS will provide a veterinarian and surgical technician team as will VOCAL. MCAS will also provide runners and personnel to monitor the animals as they recover.

Other Information

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

Our work with Project Feed clients is ongoing as new participants sign up regularly. We require that the animals be sterilized to stay in the program. This grant enables us to offer it free of charge which ensures compliance. Our TNR program works with the caregivers to ensure that we are sterilizing all of the cats in the colony.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 375 **Dogs:** 60

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$58.00

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

We have funds allocated to this program from our recent gala, The Furball. Every year, we raise funds this way to ensure that Fix the Future can continue. In addition, we currently have a county grant that targets low-income specifically.

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

84%

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.**

We have regular donors who contribute to Fix the Future. Currently, we also have a grant from our county government for \$60,000 to target low-income households. We also raise funds for Fix the Future through our annual gala, The Furball.

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 plan to do a press release to our weekly paper The Gazette if awarded the grant. We rely heavily on social media for ongoing promotion. We were unable to upload our promotions when we completed our report last year. For some reason the site would not accept our media. We would love to partner with your marketing firm for other ideas to promote the plate.

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

2