

Grant ID: 2465

Title of Proposal: Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA INC

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**Website Address:** <https://awsfl.netlify.app/#services>**Person Submitting Proposal:** RENEE ROVELLI BLEEMER**Position:** BOARD PRESIDENT**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** RENEE@AWSFL.COM**Person Submitting Proposal Cell:** 305-710-5779**Organization Head:** RENEE ROVELLI BLEEMER**Organization Head's Email:** RENEE@AWSFL.COM**Organization Business Address:** 2601 SW 27TH AVENUE**City:** MIAMI**State:** FLORIDA**Zip:** 33133**Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 305-858-3501**County:** MIAMI DADE**Organization Head's Cell:** 305-710-5779

Agency Details

EIN:0%"> EIN: 591557645**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 01/01/1980**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/25 **End:** 12/31/25**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,594,526.70**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,649,236.26**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 12 Part Time: 5**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Fortunately we are a prior grantee.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2016 2018 2020 2022 2024 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2015**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1474	2015	Community Outreach	Denied (not completed)
1682	2016	Community Outreach	Funded
1801	2018	Community Outreach	Funded
1937	2020	Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program	Funded

2076	2022	Community Outreach Spay/Neuter P	Funded
2255	2024	Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program	Funded
2465	2026	Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program	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 Private non-profit veterinary

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

Name	Title
Renee Rovelli Bleemer	Board President

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

- 8 cats and 2 dogs were admitted.**
7 cats and 2 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.
0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.
8 cats and 2 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.

Animal Welfare Society of South Florida has provided accessible, low-cost veterinary care to the community for over 50 years. Through our full-service veterinary hospital, we routinely serve underserved pet owners and already operate a Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program. This program builds on our existing system, including a fully equipped surgical suite, trained veterinary technicians, and an established scheduling system to efficiently perform high-quality, low/no cost sterilization services. The program will be led by our experienced veterinary team, including Dr. Carter, an accomplished surgeon, supported by skilled technicians trained in anesthesia monitoring and post-operative care. Administrative oversight, client qualification, and program coordination will be managed by our leadership team, which has experience implementing community-based and grant-funded initiatives. With experienced personnel, established protocols, and a strong presence in the community, we have the capacity to successfully carry out and manage 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

Our Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program, supported by donations and grants, provides sterilization services for owned cats and dogs in our community.

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

Cats: 100 Dogs: 55

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.):

Greater Miami Area

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

Unfortunately, the pet overpopulation crisis in Miami-Dade County is at an all-time high. Throughout the county, there are many underserved communities with well-meaning but low-income residents who struggle to afford veterinary care. In addition, there is often a lack of awareness regarding the importance of spay and neuter services. Because we provide low-cost veterinary care through our animal hospital, we see firsthand the need for accessible and free sterilization services for owned pets within the communities we serve.

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?

Miami-Dade County Animal Services offers free spay and neuter services to pet owners, as does the Humane Society of Greater Miami, the ASPCA and the Miami Vet Foundation. However, despite these important community resources, the demand for low- and no-cost sterilization services remains extremely high. Long wait times, limited appointment availability, transportation challenges, and the large number of financially constrained pet owners all contribute to the ongoing unmet need. Additionally, many residents are unaware of available services or face barriers that prevent them from accessing them. As a result, additional providers are essential to help reduce the number of unplanned litters and address the continued pet overpopulation affecting Miami-Dade County.

Objectives

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

With support from FAF, we hope to significantly expand our Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program. Our goal is to provide 275 sterilization surgeries for cats and 145 for dogs belonging to qualified low-income or financially constrained residents of Miami. These services will focus on owned pets in underserved communities where access to affordable veterinary care is limited and financial barriers often prevent families from pursuing sterilization. By increasing access to spay and neuter services, we aim to reduce the number of unwanted litters and help address the pet overpopulation crisis currently overwhelming Miami-Dade County. Preventing unplanned litters will not only decrease the number of animals entering already crowded shelters, but will also help improve the overall health and well-being of pets by reducing the risk of certain medical and behavioral issues. This program will provide immediate relief to struggling pet owners while contributing to a long-term, sustainable reduction in pet overpopulation throughout the community.

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

This grant will allow us to increase surgeries above our current baseline of 100 cats and 55 dogs. With additional funding, we will be able to expand the number of appointments dedicated specifically to subsidized sterilization procedures, allowing us to serve more low-income pet owners who would otherwise be unable to afford these services. We regularly encounter both existing clients and other Miami residents who want to spay or neuter their pets but are unable to do so due to financial constraints. Without assistance, these procedures are often delayed or never completed, increasing the likelihood of unplanned litters. By offsetting the cost of surgery, this program will remove a significant barrier to care and enable us to perform additional sterilizations beyond what our current budget allows.

Methods

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

Eligibility for the program will be determined by the pet owner providing proof of financial need based on U.S. Poverty Guidelines or documentation of participation in government assistance programs, including Medicaid, Reemployment Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, or a Jackson Memorial Hospital Clinic Card.

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

Advertising and outreach for the program will be conducted in Spanish, English, and Creole to effectively reach the diverse communities we serve. Information will be promoted within our hospital, through our social media platforms, and at local pet-friendly

community events where we regularly engage with pet owners. We will also collaborate with the City of Miami NET (Neighborhood Enhancement Team) offices to help distribute information directly within targeted neighborhoods. In addition, we hope to partner with local television animal advocate programs to further increase awareness. These combined outreach efforts will help ensure that qualified residents are informed about the availability of low- and no-cost spay/neuter services and can access the program.

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

We will address promotional barriers by preparing all program materials in English, Spanish, and Creole to ensure accessibility for the diverse communities we serve. In addition, person-to-person contact through community outreach efforts and conversations at events will help address literacy concerns and allow us to explain the program directly to pet owners, answer questions, and assist with eligibility requirements. Our staff and volunteers are accustomed to working with individuals from a variety of backgrounds and will provide guidance throughout the process to reduce barriers to participation. While pet owners will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from our facility, we will clearly communicate appointment times and pre and post-surgical instructions to help ensure a smooth and successful experience.

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 anyone other than the client. Pet owners are responsible for transporting their own animals to and from our hospital.

Veterinary Services

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

At Animal Welfare Society of South Florida, we have a full-time Medical Director, part-time veterinarians, and eight experienced veterinary technicians on staff to meet the surgical demands of the program. Our team is well-trained in high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter procedures, including patient preparation, anesthesia monitoring, surgical assistance, and post-operative care. This staffing structure allows us to efficiently schedule and perform additional sterilization surgeries while maintaining high standards of patient safety and care. With this experienced medical team in place, we have the capacity to accommodate the increased surgical volume associated with this program.

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	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$130.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$160.00

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

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:

Animal Welfare Society of South Florida will absorb the cost of any pre-surgical testing, vaccinations, or parasite treatment deemed necessary by our veterinarians. If a doctor determines that additional diagnostics or preventive care are required to ensure a cat or dog is healthy enough to safely undergo anesthesia, those services will be provided at no cost to the client and will not be charged to the grant. This approach ensures that patient safety remains the top priority while removing financial barriers that might otherwise delay surgery. All FAF funds will be applied directly to the cost of the sterilization procedures, maximizing the number of animals served through the program. A minimal fee will be charged for microchip application to encourage responsible pet ownership while keeping services affordable.

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
A Way for a Stray	The level of involvement from our relationship with this and other rescue groups will include helping to identify qualified pet owners, sharing program information within their networks, and referring owned pets in need of spay/neuter services. Rescue partners may also assist with community outreach, distribute promotional materials, and help raise awareness in underserved neighborhoods to ensure the program reaches those most in need.
Friends of Miami Animals	The level of involvement from our relationship with Friends of Miami Animals will include helping to identify qualified pet owners, sharing program information within their networks, and referring owned pets in need of spay/neuter services. Rescue partners may also assist with community outreach, distribute promotional

Name	Level of Involvement
	materials, and help raise awareness in underserved neighborhoods to ensure the program reaches those most in need.
Help Miami Dogs	The level of involvement from our relationship with this and other rescue groups will include helping to identify qualified pet owners, sharing program information within their networks, and referring owned pets in need of spay/neuter services. Rescue partners may also assist with community outreach, distribute promotional materials, and help raise awareness in underserved neighborhoods to ensure the program reaches those most in need.
Jacey Birch Local 10 News	The level of involvement from our local TV animal advocate Jacey Birch will include helping to promote the program through her community announcements and social media outreach. Hopefully, with station approval, through on-air segments. This support will increase public awareness, highlight the availability of low- and no-cost spay/neuter services, and help reach pet owners in underserved communities who may benefit from the program.

Other Information

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

For more than 50 years, Animal Welfare Society has been a valuable resource to South Florida, helping thousands of pets and their owners through our low-cost, full-service veterinary care. Because our target population includes the clients we serve every day, we have firsthand knowledge of the community, their financial hardships, and the ongoing need for free sterilization services. The need continues to grow—now more than ever—due to rising inflation and the increasing cost of living in Miami, which has placed additional financial strain on many pet owners. These additional funds will allow us to continue and expand this important mission. We are seeing more loving pet owners struggling to make ends meet as the cost of essentials such as gas, rent, and food continues to rise. Many are having difficulty purchasing pet food, making spay and neuter services a lower priority despite their importance. In closing, we are confident this grant will enable us to provide these vital sterilization services to struggling families and to the targeted neighborhoods where the need is greatest.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 275 **Dogs:** 145

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$60.00

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

Additional funding for this program comes from a combination of grants, donations, and internal budget allocations. AWS actively pursues other grant opportunities from foundations and organizations that support spay/neuter initiatives and access to veterinary care. We also conduct targeted fundraising efforts, including donor appeals and community events, specifically designated to support our Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program. In addition, AWS allocates a portion of its operating budget to help sustain the program, and we are fortunate to have support from dedicated donors who have expressed ongoing commitment to funding spay and neuter services. Revenue generated through our low-cost veterinary services also helps offset operational expenses, allowing more donated and grant funds to be directed toward sterilization surgeries. These combined funding sources help ensure the program remains viable and responsive to community needs.

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

70

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: 09/01/26/ **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.**

Animal Welfare Society of South Florida is committed to sustaining this program beyond the grant period through a diversified funding strategy. We will continue to pursue additional grant opportunities from local and national foundations that support spay and neuter initiatives and community veterinary care. In addition, we actively seek local donations from individual supporters, community partners, and corporate sponsors who share our commitment to reducing pet overpopulation. Our fundraising efforts, including community events and targeted donor campaigns, will also help generate ongoing support for the program. AWS is further strengthening sustainability by adding a dedicated Development Manager who will focus on grant writing, donor cultivation, and building long-term funding relationships. We also rely on revenue generated through our low-cost veterinary services to help offset operational expenses, allowing more external funding to be directed toward subsidized sterilization surgeries. Together, these efforts—additional grants, donor support, fundraising activities, and program-related service revenue—will provide a sustainable funding model that allows us to continue and expand our Community Outreach Spay/Neuter Program in the future.

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.**

Regardless of whether we are an active recipient of a grant from Florida Animal Friend, Animal Welfare Society of South Florida consistently promotes the sale of FAF Spay/Neuter license plates. We regularly include reminders and informational posts on our social media platforms and share this information at community events and outreach gatherings. We also proudly and prominently display FAF printed materials in our lobby and exam rooms to increase awareness among our clients. In addition, Florida Animal Friend is acknowledged in AWS printed materials, ensuring continued visibility and recognition of their important support for spay and neuter programs

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

5