

Grant ID: 2444

Title of Proposal: Operation Fix It Florida**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corp

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corp**Website Address:** www.capecoralanimalshelter.com**Person Submitting Proposal:** Liz McCauley**Position:** Executive Director**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** liz@capecoralanimalshelter.com**Person Submitting Proposal Cell:** 239-573-2002**Organization Head:** Liz McCauley**Organization Head's Email:** liz@capecoralanimalshelter.com**Organization Business Address:** 325 SW 2nd Avenue**City:** Cape Coral**State:** FL**Zip:** 33991**Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-573-2002**County:** Lee**Organization Head's Cell:** 239-850-2002

Agency Details

EIN:0%"> EIN: 81-3632884**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 12/06/2016**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/25 **End:** 12/31/25**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$3,253,006.25**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,222,377.65**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 22 Part Time: 2**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?**

Past recipient and this grant is very well known and respected in the animal welfare field.

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

Years Funded: 1 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 1

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1976	2021	Spay/Neuter Assistance for CCAS	Denied
2230	2024	Operation Fix It Florida	Funded
2444	2026	Operation Fix It Florida	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
Alvaro Sanchez	Director
Gloria Tate	Secretary
JoAnn Elardo	Founder/President
Lisa King	Director
Liz McCauley	Executive Director
Nancy Monteith	Director
Pamela Aubuchon	Vice President
Susan Thrasher	Director
Tami Cindrich	Treasurer

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

405 cats and 654 dogs were admitted.

407 cats and 582 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

12 cats and 12 dogs were euthanized.

789 cats and 604 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 Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS) is uniquely positioned to successfully implement and expand high-impact spay/neuter programming in Southwest Florida. Since opening just six years ago, CCAS has rapidly developed into a critical community resource, combining sheltering services with accessible, high-quality veterinary care to address pet overpopulation at its root. Our organization currently operates a full-service, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic serving more than 6,500 clients annually. This established infrastructure allows us to efficiently deliver high-volume spay/neuter services while maintaining excellent standards of care. Our existing clinic has already demonstrated the ability to increase surgical capacity, reduce barriers to care, and reach underserved pet owners—directly aligning with the grant's priority to fund programs that can expand surgery numbers in a cost-effective manner. CCAS has a proven track record of successfully managing grant-funded programs, including prior funding through this same grant program. We have demonstrated our ability to responsibly steward funds, meet or exceed program goals, and deliver measurable outcomes. Our team understands the importance of targeting resources toward animal populations most at risk of contributing to overpopulation, including owned pets in underserved communities, free-roaming cats, and animals at risk of surrender due to financial hardship. Our program is led by a highly qualified and experienced leadership team. Medical operations are overseen by a highly skilled veterinarian with more than 14 years of experience in general practice, emergency, and HQHVSN specialization, ensuring high-quality, efficient surgical care. Clinic operations are managed by a Director of Operations with over 17 years of experience in the veterinary field, who oversees both public veterinary services and the care of shelter animals, ensuring seamless coordination and program execution. Animal intake and population management are directed by our Processing and Intake Manager, a senior veterinary technician with over 16 years of experience, who plays a critical role in identifying and prioritizing animals most in

need of spay/neuter services. Our surgical team is supported by six full-time and one part-time veterinary technicians with extensive experience, enabling us to maintain high surgical throughput while ensuring patient safety and quality care. CCAS is led by an Executive Director with more than 24 years of experience in animal welfare, including executive leadership roles in shelters across Florida and Pennsylvania. Holding an MBA with a concentration in Nonprofit Leadership, she brings both strategic vision and operational expertise to ensure program success, fiscal responsibility, and long-term sustainability. Our capacity to carry out and expand this program is further strengthened by our planned facility expansion. In Fall 2026, CCAS will break ground on a new 19,000-square-foot shelter facility, allowing all shelter operations to relocate into a modern, purpose-built space. This will enable our existing building to be converted into a significantly expanded veterinary clinic. Upon completion in Spring 2027, this expansion will allow us to increase surgical volume, extend service hours, add veterinarians, and serve a greater number of animals in need—ensuring the long-term sustainability and scalability of this program. Through this combination of experienced leadership, established infrastructure, proven performance, and strategic growth, CCAS has the capacity to deliver a highly targeted, cost-effective, and sustainable spay/neuter program that will significantly reduce pet overpopulation in our region.

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 existing program is supported through a combination of clinic revenue, private donations, and limited grant funding. While this diversified funding model has allowed us to build a strong foundation and maintain consistent surgical output, available resources remain insufficient to meet the rapidly increasing demand for affordable spay/neuter services in our region. CCAS has demonstrated the ability to perform high-quality, high-volume surgeries efficiently due to our experienced medical team, established infrastructure, and streamlined clinic operations. We consistently operate at or near capacity, with appointment demand exceeding availability, particularly among low-income pet owners and those seeking assistance with community cats—populations that are critical to address to reduce overall pet overpopulation. Despite our productivity, financial barriers remain a significant obstacle for many residents in our service area. Without additional subsidized funding, many pet owners are forced to delay or forgo sterilization, increasing the risk of unplanned litters and contributing to shelter intake. Similarly, our ability to expand targeted efforts for free-roaming and community cats—one of the most impactful strategies for reducing overpopulation—is currently limited by funding constraints. Additional resources from this grant will allow CCAS to directly increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries performed beyond our current baseline, with a strong focus on high-impact populations. Funding will be used to subsidize surgeries for low-income pet owners and expand services for community cats, ensuring that resources are directed where they will have the greatest effect on reducing overpopulation. Importantly, CCAS already has the staffing, facility, and operational systems in place to immediately scale this program. This means that grant funds will translate directly into increased surgical volume and measurable outcomes, rather than being used to build new infrastructure. Our prior success with grant-funded programs demonstrates our ability to efficiently utilize funding, maximize cost-to-benefit ratios, and deliver meaningful, sustainable results. In summary, while CCAS has built a strong and productive sterilization program, additional funding is essential to expand access, target the most at-risk populations, and significantly increase the number of surgeries performed—ultimately reducing pet overpopulation and improving animal welfare in our community.

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

Cats: 789 **Dogs:** 940

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.):

Lee, Collier, Hendry, Seminole Indian Reservations

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

The primary sources of dog and cat overpopulation in our service area are directly tied to limited access to affordable spay/neuter services, a large population of free-roaming cats, and financial barriers faced by pet owners. One of the most significant contributors is the high number of owned pets that remain unsterilized due to cost. Many households in our community, particularly those with limited or fixed incomes, are unable to afford spay/neuter procedures at full-service veterinary clinics. As a result, these animals are at risk of producing unplanned litters, which often contribute to increased shelter intake or are distributed informally without sterilization, perpetuating the cycle of overpopulation. A second major source is the large and persistent population of community (free-roaming) cats. These cats reproduce rapidly and often go unaltered without targeted intervention programs. Colonies are frequently found in areas where access to resources is limited, and without consistent trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts, these populations continue to grow exponentially. Additionally, a lack of awareness and access to transportation can prevent pet owners from seeking spay/neuter services, even when low-cost options are available. This is particularly true in underserved areas of our region, where residents may face logistical barriers in addition to financial constraints. Economic instability and recovery from recent regional challenges have further exacerbated the issue. Many families are forced to prioritize immediate household needs over preventative veterinary care, increasing the likelihood of unplanned litters and pet surrender. Finally, the limited number of high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter providers in Southwest Florida places additional strain on existing resources. This results in longer wait times and reduced access to timely services, allowing more animals to reproduce before they can be sterilized. Together, these factors create a cycle of

overpopulation that can only be effectively addressed through targeted, accessible, and adequately funded spay/neuter programs. By focusing on these key sources—particularly underserved owned pets and community cats—CCAS is able to maximize the impact of each surgery and directly reduce the number of animals entering the shelter system.

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?

In our service area, spay/neuter services are currently available through a limited number of private veterinary clinics, a small number of nonprofit providers, and the Cape Coral Animal Shelter's own veterinary clinic. While these resources provide important access points for sterilization services, they are not sufficient to meet the growing demand within our community. Private veterinary clinics offer high-quality care but are often cost-prohibitive for many pet owners, particularly those with low or fixed incomes. As a result, a significant portion of the population delays or forgoes spay/neuter services due to financial constraints, increasing the likelihood of unplanned litters. Nonprofit and low-cost providers in the region offer more affordable options; however, these programs are limited in both capacity and availability. Many operate with restricted schedules, limited funding, and high demand, resulting in long wait times for appointments. These delays are critical, as even short gaps in access can lead to additional litters and further contribute to overpopulation. The Cape Coral Animal Shelter plays a key role in filling this gap by providing accessible, affordable spay/neuter services through our full-service veterinary clinic. However, despite our efficiency and established infrastructure, we consistently operate at or near capacity. Demand for low-cost services—particularly among underserved pet owners and those caring for community cats—continues to exceed available appointments. Additionally, there is a lack of sufficient targeted programs for free-roaming and community cats in our area. Without dedicated funding and resources for trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts, these populations remain largely unaddressed and continue to reproduce at high rates. Geographic and logistical barriers also contribute to the insufficiency of current resources. Transportation challenges, limited clinic hours, and a lack of outreach in certain underserved areas prevent many residents from accessing existing services, even when they are available. In summary, while spay/neuter services do exist within our target area, they are fragmented, capacity-limited, and often financially or logistically inaccessible to the populations most in need. Additional funding is essential to expand access, reduce wait times, and ensure that services are directed toward high-impact populations, ultimately increasing the number of surgeries performed and reducing pet overpopulation in a meaningful and sustainable way.

Objectives

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

With the support of this funding, the Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS) aims to significantly increase access to affordable spay/neuter services and reduce pet overpopulation in our community through the following measurable objectives:

- Perform a minimum of 440 additional spay/neuter surgeries above our current baseline during the grant period, directly increasing sterilization capacity in our service area.
- Allocate at least 80% of funded surgeries to high-impact target populations, including low-income pet owners, community (free-roaming) cats, and animals at risk of contributing to overpopulation.
- Provide subsidized spay/neuter services for 80 owned pets from underserved households, reducing financial barriers and preventing unplanned litters.
- Sterilize a minimum of 360 community cats through targeted trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts, addressing one of the most significant sources of overpopulation.
- Achieve a cost-efficient delivery model with an average cost per surgery of approximately \$45 for TNR Cats and \$110 for Owned Dogs, ensuring strong cost-to-benefit outcomes and maximizing the impact of grant funding.
- Track and report program outcomes, including number of surgeries performed, target population served, and estimated reduction in potential offspring, to ensure accountability and measurable impact.

Through these objectives, CCAS will not only increase the number of animals sterilized but will also strategically target the populations most likely to contribute to overpopulation. By combining increased surgical volume with focused outreach and subsidized services, this program will create both immediate and long-term reductions in shelter intake and improve overall animal welfare in our community.

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

This program will increase sterilization surgeries above our current baseline by removing financial barriers and expanding access to underserved, high-impact populations. CCAS currently operates at or near full capacity, with demand for low-cost spay/neuter services exceeding available appointments. Our ability to increase surgeries is limited primarily by funding, not staffing or facility constraints. Grant funding will allow us to subsidize additional surgeries that would not otherwise occur, converting unmet demand into completed procedures. Because we already have the experienced staff, surgical space, and systems in place, these additional surgeries can be implemented immediately, ensuring that funds directly translate into increased surgical volume. By prioritizing low-income pet owners and community cats, this program will both increase the total number of surgeries performed and maximize impact on reducing pet overpopulation.

Methods

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

Eligibility for this program will be based on criteria designed to prioritize animals and pet owners most likely to contribute to overpopulation if left unserved. Priority will be given to:

- Low-income pet owners, with eligibility determined through participation in assistance programs or income verification
- Residents within targeted service areas identified as having high rates of unsterilized animals
- Community (free-roaming) cats, including those managed by caregivers or identified through targeted trapping efforts
- Animals at risk of producing unplanned litters, including intact pets without prior access to affordable services.

Additional consideration will be given to applicants facing financial or logistical barriers, such as lack of transportation or access to veterinary care. These criteria ensure that funding is directed toward high-impact populations, maximizing the effectiveness of each surgery in reducing pet overpopulation.

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

CCAS will utilize a comprehensive, multi-channel outreach strategy to ensure this program reaches high-impact populations and is fully utilized. In-house advertising will include promotion through our website, social media platforms, email newsletters, and on-site signage within our shelter and veterinary clinic. Our staff will also directly inform clients about available spay/neuter assistance at the time of service. We will distribute press releases and media outreach to local newspapers, radio stations, and community publications to raise awareness of the program and its availability to underserved pet owners. CCAS will collaborate with community partners, including local nonprofit organizations, food banks, and social service agencies, to help identify and refer eligible clients. These partnerships allow us to reach pet owners who may not otherwise be aware of available resources. We will also work closely with municipal shelters and animal control agencies to target animals most at risk of entering the shelter system and ensure coordinated efforts to reduce overpopulation. For community cats, we will engage established networks of cat trappers and colony caregivers, providing direct communication about available resources and scheduling support for trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts. Additionally, targeted outreach will be conducted in underserved areas through flyers, community events, and word-of-mouth engagement to ensure accessibility for populations with limited digital access. This multi-faceted approach ensures that the program is widely promoted, strategically targeted, and accessible to the populations most in need, maximizing participation and overall impact.

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

CCAS will proactively address barriers to ensure full utilization of the program by reducing logistical, financial, and language obstacles for underserved populations. To address transportation challenges, we will provide transportation assistance to and from the clinic for clients in targeted areas. In addition, we have access to a mobile spay/neuter unit, allowing us to bring services directly into high-need communities, eliminating geographic barriers and increasing participation. To ensure accessibility for diverse populations, all program materials will be available in both English and Spanish, and we have bilingual staff and volunteers available onsite at each clinic to assist clients throughout the process. We will also offer subsidized services to reduce financial barriers and conduct targeted outreach in underserved communities to ensure awareness of available resources. By combining transportation support, mobile service delivery, bilingual communication, and financial assistance, CCAS will ensure that this program is accessible, inclusive, and fully utilized by the populations most in need.

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

Yes, this project may involve transportation of animals by CCAS staff or volunteers when needed. Animals will be transported in a full-size shelter vehicle and secured in appropriate crates that are safely fastened within the van to ensure stability and safety during transport. All drivers are licensed, insured, and covered under CCAS automobile and liability insurance, including both staff and approved volunteers. All transport activities are overseen by our Director of Operations, Melanie Waite, who has extensive experience managing large-scale spay/neuter transport programs and has successfully overseen hundreds of transports without incident. Additionally, all necessary liability waivers and release forms are utilized to ensure the safety of animals, staff, and the organization.

Veterinary Services

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

To: Florida Animal Friend Grant Committee Please be advised that the Cape Coral Animal Shelter and Veterinary Clinic has secured firm commitments from an exceptional team of experienced, high-volume spay/neuter veterinarians to support our surgical initiatives. This includes both in-clinic services and targeted mobile outreach efforts, with a particular focus on expanding access to care within Seminole Indian Reservations across Florida—communities that have historically faced significant barriers to veterinary services. Our surgical team represents a deep bench of expertise in High-Quality, High-Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN), ensuring both efficiency and the highest standards of patient care: Kathy Vathym, DVM – As our veterinarian of record, Dr. Vathym brings over 18 years of HQHVSN experience. She consistently performs 30–35 surgeries per day with exceptional outcomes. Her daily rate is \$600. Nicole Ferguson, DVM – Dr. Ferguson is a highly skilled surgeon with extensive expertise in shelter medicine and HQHVSN protocols. She performs approximately 35 surgeries per day and volunteers her time for the cause. Cecilia Fisher, DVM – Specializing in shelter surgery and HQHVSN, Dr. Fisher is capable of completing 35–40 surgeries per day. Her rate ranges from \$600 to \$800 per day, reflecting her advanced surgical capacity. Robert Bergantino, DVM – A dedicated HQHVSN specialist, Dr. Bergantino provides surgical services at \$140 per hour and averages 35 surgeries per day. Brenda Stevens, DVM - A general practice veterinarian and surgeon that has assisted us with TNVR clinics as a volunteer and averages 25 surgeries per day. Meghan Schuman, DVM - A general practice veterinarian and surgeon that has assisted us with TNVR clinics at a rate of \$600 per day and averages 30 surgeries per day. Kerstin Martin del Campo, DVM – Dr. del Campo is a leader in HQHVSN, operating both a dedicated clinic and a mobile surgical unit. Through our collaboration, we successfully delivered free spay/neuter services to Seminole Indian Reservations for the first time—an

achievement recognized with the Outstanding Cooperative Team Achievement Award from the Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association (FAPAA). Collectively, this team enables us to deliver high-impact, scalable spay/neuter services with both precision and compassion. Their combined capacity ensures that grant funding will translate directly into a significant increase in surgeries performed, reducing pet overpopulation and improving animal welfare in underserved communities throughout Florida.

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
Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corp	325 SW 2nd Avenue	Cape Coral	FL	33991	239-573-2002	☒

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	\$45.00	\$45.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00

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 \$26.00
Pain Medication*	☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Parasite Medication	☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$15.00
HW Testing	☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$26.00
Feline Leuk/FIV	☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$32.00
County License	☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Ear tipping*	☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Microchip	☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$10.00
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:

These are standard test and fees offered to clients. I tried to change Feline Leuk/FIV and the Microchip to "Optional" but it won't let

me change that. We do offer them for an additional fee.

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
Community Cooperative	When we had access to this grant two years ago, we partnered with Community Cooperative, attending their weekly Mobile Food Pantries, giving out food and supplies, and signing up people for free Spay/Neuter with the grant. We are hoping to start this up again if we are awarded the grant. It was extremely successful and helped us target the animal owners who needed this free service the most. It was heartwarming to be able to help so many people and animals, and everyone was extremely grateful.
Fortunate Ferals	Partnering with this incredible trapping/TNVR group to fill up our spay/neuter clinic days. We TNVR and ear tip cats they have trapped but also take in kittens or super friendly cats that do not need to be released and find them forever homes. It has been an incredible partnership.
Haven On Earth (H.E.A.L.)	Partner with H.E.A.L. on our monthly TNVR clinics so they can get trapped cats spayed/neutered and take in adoptable cats and kittens so they do not need to be released.
Lee County Domestic Animal Services	Coordinate spay/neuter with LCDAS through their voucher program that targets underserved areas and individuals that have been cited by AC for having too many animals. We spay/neuter 25 animals per month through this voucher program. (This is in addition to the spay/neuter surgeries we will do through this grant.)
Local Media	CCAS has outstanding relationships with all of our local media outlets including The Breeze Newspaper, News Press (Fort Myers/Naples), Florida Weekly, Gulf Coast News/Hearst, and WINK News (TV and radio). We did an extensive amount of PR when we received this grant two years ago and will do the same if we are awarded it this time.
Redland Dog Sanctuary and This is the Dog Rescue Group	One of our incredible rescue partners located in Homestead, Florida. We have taken over 1,000 abandoned, neglected and abused animals from this underserved area since we opened six years ago. We work closely with both of these rescues to move these poor animals on to happy, healthy lives.
Relief Veterinarians	CCAS operates a full-service, affordable care veterinary clinic open six days a week to serve our community. We do this through a network of 15 relief veterinarians besides our dedicated spay/neuter surgery veterinarians. This has been an incredible service to our community and plans are underway to expand our clinic as soon as our new shelter facility is completed.
Seminole Indian Tribe Animal Control	After almost three years of attempts, CCAS was finally able to get permission from the tribal council to go to reservations throughout Florida and perform free spay/neuter services for the tribal members. This is the first time any outside vendor has been allowed on the reservation. Because of the great need and our persistence, we were able to form this partnership. We were even awarded the

Name	Level of Involvement
	Cooperative Team Achievement Award from the Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

Other Information

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

The Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS) has rapidly become a leader in innovative, community-focused animal welfare solutions in Southwest Florida. Since opening, CCAS has rescued and rehomed over 6,200 animals while simultaneously addressing the root causes of pet overpopulation through accessible veterinary care and targeted spay/neuter programming. Our spay/neuter initiatives are deeply integrated into broader community outreach efforts. Through programs such as Operation: Fix It Florida, CCAS has partnered with local organizations to deliver services directly to underserved populations, including at mobile food pantries. In the past year alone, this program has provided free spay/neuter services to more than 400 pets, removing barriers to care and preventing thousands of unwanted litters. CCAS has also demonstrated a strong commitment to reaching historically underserved populations. In 2025, we became the first animal welfare organization invited to provide spay/neuter services directly on Seminole Tribal Reservations, delivering critical care in areas with little to no access to veterinary services and building sustainable partnerships for long-term impact. In addition to direct services, CCAS plays a leadership role in advancing animal welfare across the region and state. Our organization has contributed to legislative efforts, developed resources to support other shelters, and launched educational initiatives to promote responsible pet ownership among future generations. These efforts reflect our commitment not only to service delivery, but to systemic, sustainable change. With a proven track record of high-impact programming, strong community partnerships, and experienced leadership, CCAS has the capacity to effectively implement and expand spay/neuter services. Our planned facility expansion and continued program growth will further increase our ability to serve animals and families in need. CCAS is uniquely positioned to maximize the impact of grant funding by combining efficient service delivery, targeted outreach, and long-term sustainability—ensuring measurable reductions in pet overpopulation and meaningful improvements in animal welfare throughout our community.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 360 **Dogs:** 80

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$57.00

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

CCAS has a "Have a Heart Fund" that will cover the cost of the exam and rabies vaccine because we believe both are very important.

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: 09/01/26/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/27

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.**

CCAS is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this program through a diversified funding strategy that includes grants, individual donations, and program-generated revenue. We actively pursue foundation and private grants, including continued applications to Florida Animal Friends and other funding partners, to support and expand our spay/neuter initiatives. In addition, CCAS benefits from strong community support, with individual donors and local businesses contributing to our mission through annual giving, fundraising events, and targeted campaigns. Our full-service veterinary clinic also generates revenue that is reinvested into subsidized programs, allowing us to offset costs and expand access to low-cost and free spay/neuter services. Programs such as Operation: Fix It Florida demonstrate our ability to leverage partnerships and funding to deliver sustainable, high-impact services. Looking ahead, our planned clinic expansion will further increase capacity and revenue potential, enabling us to serve more clients while continuing to subsidize care for underserved populations. Through this combination of grant funding, community support, earned revenue, and strategic growth, CCAS is well-positioned to sustain and expand this program beyond the grant period.

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.**

CCAS has a proven track record of actively promoting Florida Animal Friend grant funding and the Animal Friend license plate, and we will continue to expand these efforts to maximize visibility and impact. We will promote the license plate through a multi-channel outreach strategy, including press releases, social media campaigns, email newsletters, and prominent placement on our website. Our large and engaged audience allows us to consistently reach thousands of community members with messaging about the importance of spay/neuter funding and how purchasing the license plate directly supports these efforts. In addition, CCAS will incorporate license plate promotion into all grant-funded program communications, including community clinics, outreach events, and partnerships with local organizations. Our staff and volunteers will actively educate clients and community members about the program and encourage participation. We will also leverage our strong relationships with local media outlets to highlight the impact of the grant and the role of the license plate in sustaining these services. Signage and promotional materials will be displayed at our shelter, veterinary clinic, and off-site clinic locations to further increase awareness. Building on our past success, where we actively promoted both the grant funding and license plate program, CCAS is committed to continuing and expanding these efforts to drive increased community engagement and support for Florida Animal Friend's mission.

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

Unknown