

Grant ID: 2472

Title of Proposal: Breaking The Cycle**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$15,000.00**Check Payable To:** Feline Advocates of Leon County

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Feline Advocates of Leon County**Website Address:** falccats@gmail.com**Person Submitting Proposal:** Michelle Hartsfield**Position:** President**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** falccats@gmail.com**Person Submitting Proposal Cell:** 850-210-2559**Organization Head:** Michelle Hartsfield**Organization Head's Email:** falccats@gmail.com**Organization Business Address:** 429 COLLINSFORD ROAD**City:** Tallahassee**State:** FL**Zip:** 32301**Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 850-210-2559**County:** Florida**Organization Head's Cell:** 850-210-2559

Agency Details

EIN:0% "> EIN: 831120353**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 04/17/2018**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 07/01/24 **End:** 06/30/25**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$174,945.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$193,430.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 0 Part Time: 8**How did you learn of the 2009****Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** We follow your program yearly and received a grant in 2024.**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 1 Year(s) denied/incomplete:**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2204	2024	Ending Suffering Through Spay and Neuter, TNVR and Education	Funded
2472	2026	Breaking The Cycle	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
Michelle Hartsfield	President

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

471 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

457 cats and 0 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

14 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

471 cats and 1 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 organization operates a comprehensive rescue, foster, adoption, and spay/neuter program serving the Tallahassee community. We intake approximately 300 cats annually, many of whom originate as strays identified by community members. All animals in our care are fully vetted, including spay/neuter surgery, prior to adoption. While our foster and adoption programs are critical, we recognize that the most effective solution to pet overpopulation is prevention. As a result, we have developed a robust Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program, which has been a core part of our operations for over 5 years. Our organization utilizes both targeted TNR and full-circle TNR strategies to reduce free-roaming community cat populations in a sustainable and humane way. Our TNR program is supported by a structured and experienced team of approximately 10 trappers. The program will be lead by our rescue's President, who has many years of TNR experience, and our medical coordinator, who already coordinates with the low-cost clinics to fix cats in our foster/adoption program. Program leadership is responsible for identifying high-needs areas, coordinating trapping efforts, and managing transportation to and from vet clinics. Our volunteer trappers play a critical role by trapping, staging, recovering, and providing daily care for the animals throughout the process. We partner with multiple veterinary clinics to ensure consistent access to high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter services. Our organization has demonstrated a strong track record of impact. In 2023, thanks to a grant, we sterilized approximately 1,000 community cats through our TNR program alone. In addition, all cats within our foster program were also fixed, ensuring that no animal leaves our care unaltered. We know we have the manpower and passion to make a big impact in our community. Beyond direct services, we have also expanded our impact through community outreach. We have supported rural communities by providing traps, education, and financial assistance to establish their own TNR efforts, further extending the reach of our program. Although we experienced a temporary reduction in capacity in 2025 due to the loss of a few trappers, our program infrastructure, volunteer base, and veterinary partnerships remain firmly in place. Our leadership team continues to oversee all operations and ensures that best practices in animal welfare and TNR are consistently followed. With restored funding, we are fully equipped to scale our program, rebuild capacity, and continue delivering high impact spay and neuter services to both community cats and owned animals.

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 organization does not perform spays and neuters nor operate a clinic that does so, but we work with the community in educating the importance of spaying and neutering as well as assisting in getting unaltered pets to the vet and financially supporting any community member that is in need.

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

Cats: 471 Dogs: 1

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.):

Leon County, FL - especially 32304

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

The most significant contributors to pet overpopulation in our target area, particularly in zip code 32304, are as follows 1. Financial barriers to spay/neuter: Many pet owners in Tallahassee cannot afford the cost of sterilization, which leads to unplanned litters and continued reproduction. Limited access to affordable veterinary care exacerbates this problem. 2. Free-roaming community cats: A large population of unsterilized, free-roaming community cats reproduce unchecked. These community cats contribute significantly to the local overpopulation problem, and their kittens often end up in shelters or face preventable suffering. 3. Lack of awareness or access to resources: Some residents are unaware of low-cost spay/neuter options or face transportation or logistical barriers. This contributes to delays in sterilization, allowing pets to reproduce before intervention is possible. 4. High intake areas and shelter overflow: Certain neighborhoods in Tallahassee consistently experience high numbers of stray and surrendered animals. This reflects both the socioeconomic challenges and the lack of preventative care in the community. By targeting both owned pets and community cats, our program addresses these root causes. Subsidized spay/neuter services remove financial barriers, while TNR reduces reproduction in free-roaming community cat populations. Together, these interventions work to break the cycle of overpopulation in our community.

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?

There are spay and neuter services available in Tallahassee, including two dedicated low-cost clinics as well as multiple full-service veterinary practices. While these resources are valuable, they are not sufficient to meet the needs of the populations we serve. The primary barrier is affordability. Even reduced-cost services can still be financially out of reach for many residents in our community, especially for those in zip code 32304, where many individuals are facing significant economic hardship. For many families, financial priorities are understandably focused on necessities such as housing, food, transportation, and utilities. This makes veterinary care, especially preventative procedures like spay or neuter, difficult to prioritize. In addition to cost, other barriers include limited appointment availability, transportation challenges, and the logistical difficulties of trapping and transporting community cats. These factors further limit access to existing services, particularly for individuals managing outdoor cat populations or multiple unsterilized cats. As a result, many animals remain unaltered despite the presence of our local clinics. Our program helps bridge this gap by removing financial and logistical barriers, ensuring that both community cats and owned pets are able to receive timely spay and neuter services.

Objectives

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

With funding from Florida Animal Friend, our primary objective is to sterilize approximately 250 unaltered cats and pets within the grant period. This objective is specific, measurable, and directly tied to reducing pet overpopulation in high-need areas, particularly within zip code 32304 in Tallahassee. In addition to surgical output we aim to: • Reduce the number of unplanned litters in our target area by addressing reproduction at its source • Decrease intake of kittens and stray animals into local shelters • Improve health and stability of community cat populations through sterilization and vaccination • Expands access to care for low-income pet owners, removing financial barriers to responsible pet ownership. All animals served through this program will be tracked using our established data collection protocols. We document key information including intake source, geographic location, services provided, and final outcome (including return-to-field for community cats). This ensures that all grant-funded surgeries are fully traceable, measurable, and reportable. Ultimately, this program will result in both immediate and long-term impact by preventing future generations of unaltered animals, reducing strain on local shelters, and improving overall animal welfare in our community.

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

This program will directly increase the number of sterilization surgeries performed by restoring and expanding our operational capacity following a temporary reduction in 2025 due to the loss of two key TNR volunteers. We saw a reduction in our capacity to manage trapping and transportation to vet clinics. Despite this reduction in capacity, demand for services remained high, with ongoing

requests for assistance from both community cat caregivers and low-income pet owners. Funding from the Florida Animal Friend will allow us to overcome these limitations by supporting the direct costs of surgeries, enabling us to fully utilize our existing infrastructure, volunteer network, and veterinary partnerships. With financial barriers reduced, we will be able to increase the number of animals scheduled and treated, particularly in high-need areas such as zip code 32304 in Tallahassee. Specifically, this program will enable us to complete approximately 250 sterilization surgeries that would not otherwise occur without grant funding. These surgeries represent a measurable increase above our current baseline and directly address the gap between demand and available resources. By restoring capacity and removing financial barriers, this program ensures that more animals are sterilized in a timely manner, preventing future litters and creating a sustained reduction in overpopulation.

Methods

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

To be eligible to receive our assistance, the community cat caretaker or pet owner must be willing to allow us to spay and neuter all animals in the localized area or under their care. They must also be willing to abide by our "best practices" policies.

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

We will create a media campaign to be seen by our over 25,000 followers. Local businesses also partner with us to promote what we do. We love sharing about our initiatives and grants on social media and by sharing our program on social media, more people can be aware of the resources available to have cats TNR in their neighborhood or their personal pets spayed and neutered. To address the low socioeconomic status zip codes in our target area, the most effective form of communication will be door to door education/door hangers (bi-lingual) and word of mouth by attending neighborhood events and HOA's if available, to share education and information. The low SES residents may be primary community members not aware of the resources available to them and if they don't follow our social media to receive information, they will need to have direct contact for education and awareness.

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

These are barriers our existing program has already faced. We have found the best way to address these barriers is by leveraging our team's collective and diverse background to come up with solutions. Transporting to and from vet clinics is handled by various volunteers and coordinated in advance. We are fortunate that our team has several volunteers that can assist with transportation to and from community cat colonies or pet owners in need. When a situation we want to help with arises, we go visit the location. We do this to survey and assess the situation, get a head count on the number of cats in need, and begin establishing trust and rapport with the individual(s) who feed or own the cats in need. Our team will trap or collect the cats and transport them to a staging area. Once the kitties are fixed, have recovered, and are deemed healthy enough for return, our volunteers will transport them back. We keep in communication with the colony caregiver or pet owner the entire time and provide them with updates, so they are not worried about the status of their cat(s). We also keep in contact with them even after all the cats in their care are fixed, to educate them on how to monitor the health of their cats. We are also lucky that two of our TNR volunteers speak Spanish fluently. These volunteers are happy to serve as translators or mediators between us and the Spanish-speaking members of our community that we want to help. One cultural hurdle we have encountered is that the members of our community that we want to help do not believe in spay and neuter. When faced with this tricky situation, we rely on having open dialogue sharing the evidence-based practices we follow. We have often found that by taking the time to educate someone in a kind and nonjudgmental method, they often respond positively.

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

This project does not involve transportation of animals by anyone outside our organization.

Veterinary Services

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

We have working relationships with the two spay and neuter clinics listed below already, and have fixed thousands of cats at their respective facilities. Both practices have an office manager that serves as a liaison between the clinic and the client, and we have made both aware of this grant opportunity and application.

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
Animal Aid	2270 Boone Blvd	Tallahassee	Florida	32303	850-386-4148	☐
Tally Spay and Neuter Center	5021 W Tennessee St	Tallahassee	Florida	32304	850-692-3425	☒

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	\$55.00	\$55.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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	☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$12.00
Other Vaccination if Due	☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$10.00
Pain Medication*	☒ Required ☐ Optional ☐ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Parasite Medication	☐ Required ☒ Optional ☐ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$10.00
HW Testing	☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available	☒ No ☐ Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Available	☐ No ☒ Yes \$25.00
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:

The form will not let us list microchip as an optional service. But, a microchip is an optional service offered by the clinic, but our trained vet techs can also administer microchips in house, which is typically what we do. FIV/FelV testing is also an optional service offered by the clinic.

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
Feline Fine Animal Rescue	Partners in TNVR
Tallahassee Animal Service Center	Receives injured, unaltered animals and will treat for injuries or illness and alter them and return to us, ear tipped, to return to their home.

Other Information

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

Our TNR program started out so small in 2019 with only 27 cats TNVR. Since then, we have done so much, and are eager for the opportunity to expand our impact and help more cats and their caretakers.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 250 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$60.00

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

Any extra costs not allotted by the grant funding will be covered by our own fundraising and revenue that our organization has already in place. Each year we have various fundraisers including our For Cats' Sake Art Auction, annual garage sale, grab bag book sales at our bookstore, etc. Additionally, we have our monthly donor program and receive one-time donations regularly too. We also operate two small businesses/adoption centers, where all proceeds go to the nonprofit.

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:** 07/31/27

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.**

Our largest source of revenue is from our two adoption centers with one being a used bookstore and the other being a cat cafe. After overhead costs, all remaining funds are redirected to cover medical costs. These funds would be used as well to cover the increase in our spay and neuter surgeries. We will also utilize other grant opportunities like The Summerlee Foundation grant or Petco Love grant to find more ways to sustain the growth. And we will continue to fundraise annually and watch our fundraising revenue increase as it has been doing over the past several years. We also have wonderful donors who support our efforts financially on a regular basis.

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.**

Promotional Materials from this grant will be posted on all three of our websites as well as all three of our social media pages. We have sites and social media for our organization and the two adoption centers that it operates. In addition to the initial announcement, we will promote the license plate promo material periodically throughout the grant program timeline with updates of our accomplishments because of the grant. We will do posts showing the kitties that we were able to fix and the community cat colonies we were able to help thanks to the grant. Additionally, at our two adoption facilities, we proudly discuss and display promotional material from our partners to our customers. Many patrons find us accidentally, or stumble into a facility. We take the opportunity to sprinkle in education regarding animal welfare and responsible pet ownership while they are visiting and we have their attention. We pride ourselves on educating our community to help people learn how to become improved pet owners as well as spay and neuter advocates.

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

Unknown