

Grant ID: 2416

Title of Proposal: Removing Barriers to Spay & Neuter in Charlotte and DeSoto Counties

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: St. Francis Animal Rescue of Venice, Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: St. Francis Animal Rescue of Venice, Inc.

Website Address: www.sfarvenice.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Amy Berke

Position: Shelter Coordinator

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: stfrancisarfl@gmail.com

Person Submitting Proposal Cell: 941-237-7841

Organization Head: Bruce Guilmette

Organization Head's Email: limoges@verizon.net

Organization Business Address: 1925 S. Tamiami Trail

City: Venice

State: FL

Zip: 34293

Organization Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-492-6200

County: Sarasota

Organization Head's Cell: 978-998-2811

Agency Details

EIN:0% "> EIN: 65-0409317

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 05/06/1993

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/25 **End:** 12/31/25

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,493,566.79

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$775,984.53

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 2 Part Time: 21

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? We have applied in the past

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2009 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2011, 2012

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
110	2009	Feral Spay / Neuter Fund	Funded
207	2011	Feral Spay / Neuter Funding	Denied
291	2012	Feral Spay / Neuter Fund	Denied
1568	2007		Denied
2416	2026	Removing Barriers to Spay & Neuter in Charlotte and DeSoto Counties	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
Bruce Guilmette	President

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

370 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

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

8 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

281 cats and 0 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.

St. Francis Animal Rescue has a well-established spay/neuter infrastructure and strong community partnerships that directly support the goals of this application. We work closely with experienced local trappers to identify, trap, transport, and return community cats in high-need areas, ensuring humane and effective population management. In addition, we partner with Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services, a nonprofit low-cost spay/neuter clinic located in Port Charlotte, which provides reliable, high-volume surgical services for both community cats and owned cats from low-income families. Through nearly 33 years of operational experience, proven grant management, dedicated funding, and trusted veterinary and trapping partnerships, St. Francis Animal Rescue has the capacity, expertise, and infrastructure necessary to successfully carry out this program and achieve measurable reductions in cat overpopulation in Charlotte and DeSoto Counties. This spay/neuter program will be overseen by Amy Berke, Shelter Coordinator for St. Francis Animal Rescue, who has been with the organization for 19 years. She has extensive experience supervising grant-funded initiatives and ensuring compliance with reporting, budgeting, and outcome requirements. Ms. Berke has successfully implemented numerous grants throughout her tenure, including the most recent spay/neuter grant awarded last year by the Golisano Foundation. She is also responsible for managing and allocating \$25,000 in St. Francis Animal Rescue's internal funds dedicated specifically to spay/neuter services and emergency veterinary care for cats in our community. This ongoing financial commitment demonstrates both organizational stability and a long-term dedication to population control and preventive care.

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

St. Francis Animal Rescue currently operates an ongoing low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter program serving both community cats and owned cats from low-income households in Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties. This program prioritizes cats in high-intake and high-risk areas, with services provided at no cost for community cats and at deeply subsidized rates for owned cats whose

caregivers meet income guidelines. Funding for this program is supported through a combination of grant funding and organizational investment, including a dedicated annual allocation of \$25,000 from St. Francis Animal Rescue to offset spay/neuter and emergency veterinary costs. This diversified funding structure allows the program to operate year-round and ensures continuity of services even outside grant cycles. Spay/neuter surgeries are provided through our established partnership with Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services, a nonprofit low-cost clinic located in Port Charlotte. Community cats are identified and served through collaborations with experienced local trappers, while owned cats are referred through our shelter, community outreach, and partner networks. All cats receiving services are vaccinated as appropriate, and community cats are ear-tipped in accordance with best practices. This existing program infrastructure allows St. Francis Animal Rescue to immediately scale services using Florida Animal Friend funding, expanding access to spay/neuter for underserved populations while delivering measurable, cost-effective reductions in cat overpopulation.

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

Cats: 364 **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.):

Charlotte County and Arcadia, FL

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

The most substantial sources of cat overpopulation in the target area stem from two distinct but interconnected issues: an unmanaged community cat population in Charlotte County and limited access to affordable spay/neuter services for owned cats in economically disadvantaged communities such as Arcadia. In Charlotte County, a significant driver of overpopulation is the large number of unaltered community cats. These cats reproduce rapidly in the absence of consistent, targeted trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts. While several organizations provide rescue and adoption services, relatively few are addressing population control at the source through large-scale community cat sterilization. As a result, colonies continue to grow, placing ongoing strain on animal control, shelters, and rescue organizations, and contributing to repeated cycles of intake and reproduction. In Arcadia, FL, a major contributor to cat overpopulation is the lack of accessible spay/neuter services for owned cats living in low-income households. Many residents face economic barriers such as limited financial resources, lack of transportation, and reduced access to veterinary care. As a result, cats remain unaltered and often produce unintended litters that may be surrendered to shelters, given away informally, or allowed to roam and reproduce within the community cat population. This creates a continuous influx of cats into the local overpopulation cycle. By targeting community cats in Charlotte County and owned cats in Arcadia, this program addresses the root causes of overpopulation in both areas. Focused spay/neuter interventions in these high-need populations will prevent future litters, reduce shelter intake, and provide a sustainable, humane solution to cat overpopulation in the region.

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?

Spay/neuter resources in the target area are limited in availability, geographic reach, and capacity, resulting in significant unmet need for both community cats and owned cats from low-income households. In Arcadia, access to no-cost or low-cost spay/neuter services for owned cats is extremely limited. Currently, St. Francis Animal Rescue is the only rescue partnering with Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services' mobile unit to provide free spay/neuter services for owned cats in Arcadia. Outside of these scheduled mobile clinics, residents must travel long distances to access veterinary care, which presents a significant barrier for low-income households due to cost, transportation limitations, and time off work. As a result, many owned cats remain unaltered, contributing directly to unintended litters and increased community cat populations. In Charlotte County, spay/neuter services for community cats are similarly insufficient to meet demand. While occasional free spay/neuter events are offered by organizations such as Humane Society of Sarasota County and Cat Depot, both are located in Sarasota and require extensive travel by volunteer trappers. These events are infrequent, limited in capacity, and not a sustainable solution for ongoing population control in Charlotte County. Outside of these limited opportunities, St. Francis Animal Rescue is the only rescue consistently partnering with Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services at their clinic in Port Charlotte to provide funded spay/neuter surgeries for community cats in Charlotte County. Current resources do not allow the program to meet existing demand, leaving many colonies unaltered and allowing continued reproduction. Florida Animal Friend funding will directly address these gaps by expanding access to no-cost spay/neuter services, increasing surgical volume, and targeting populations most responsible for ongoing overpopulation. The proposed program leverages existing partnerships and infrastructure, allowing for immediate implementation and measurable impact in high-need areas.

Objectives

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

Proposed Allocation of Florida Animal Friend Funds • \$15,000 – Community Cats (TNVR) in Charlotte County • \$10,000 – Owned Cats in Arcadia

Objectives & Outcomes With Florida Animal Friend funding, St. Francis Animal Rescue seeks to achieve measurable reductions in cat overpopulation by targeting the populations most responsible for continued reproduction in our service area:

- unaltered community cats in Charlotte County and owned cats from low-income households in Arcadia.

Objective 1: Community Cats – Charlotte County (TNVR) Using \$15,000 in grant funding, we will sterilize approximately 405 community cats through targeted trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR).

- Florida Animal Friend funds will cover \$37 per cat (\$35 surgery + \$2 rabies vaccine)
- St. Francis Animal Rescue will contribute an additional \$13 per cat (remaining rabies cost, FVRCP vaccine, and flea treatment)

Quantifiable Outcome:

- ~405 community cats sterilized
- Prevention of thousands of future births
- Immediate, humane population stabilization in high-density colonies

Objective 2: Owned Cats – Arcadia (Low-Income Families) Using \$10,000 in grant funding, we will provide spay/neuter services for approximately 230 owned cats belonging to low-income households in Arcadia.

- Florida Animal Friend funds will cover: o \$25 neuter or \$40 spay o \$2 rabies vaccine
- St. Francis Animal Rescue will cover the remaining \$13 rabies cost per cat

Quantifiable Outcome:

- ~230 owned cats sterilized
- Reduction in accidental litters that often enter the shelter or community cat population
- Increased access to preventive veterinary care in an economically disadvantaged area

Overall Program Impact

- Total cats sterilized: approximately 635 cats
- Total Florida Animal Friend investment: \$25,000
- Direct organizational match: Provided through veterinary cost sharing, staffing, coordination, and outreach
- Cost-effective, high-impact intervention using existing partnerships and infrastructure

By combining Florida Animal Friend funding with organizational resources and established veterinary partnerships, this program will deliver immediate, measurable, and sustainable reductions in cat overpopulation in two of the highest-need areas of our region.

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

This program will directly increase the number of sterilization surgeries above our existing baseline by adding dedicated, restricted funding for populations that currently exceed available resources. In 2025, St. Francis Animal Rescue funded 270 TNVR surgeries, primarily serving community cats in Charlotte County and Arcadia, using organizational funds. In addition, a grant from the Golisano Foundation has supported 56 TNVR surgeries and 92 owned-cat spay/neuter surgeries in Arcadia from November 2025 to the present. These efforts reflect our baseline capacity and demonstrate ongoing commitment; however, demand for spay/neuter services continues to exceed available funding. Florida Animal Friend funds will be used to expand surgical volume beyond this established baseline, not replace existing funding sources. The requested \$25,000 will allow St. Francis Animal Rescue to complete approximately 635 additional sterilization surgeries targeting high-need populations: community cats in Charlotte County and owned cats from low-income households in Arcadia. Without Florida Animal Friend support, these surgeries would not be possible due to financial and capacity limitations. Importantly, organizational funds and other grant support will continue to be used to sustain baseline operations, while Florida Animal Friend funding will be fully dedicated to increasing access, removing cost barriers, and accelerating sterilization in areas with persistent overpopulation. This layered funding approach enables immediate program expansion and results in a significant, measurable increase in total surgeries performed. By supplementing—not supplanting—existing resources, this program will substantially increase the number of cats sterilized, prevent future litters, and achieve faster population-level impact in the target communities.

Methods

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

Eligibility for this program is based on geographic need, population-level impact, and equitable access, with policies designed to remove barriers and maximize participation while maintaining humane standards of care. For community cats, any unaltered free-roaming cat located within the target service area is eligible to receive trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) services. Cats are identified and prioritized through collaboration between experienced local trappers and Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services. Priority is given to high-density colonies, nuisance locations, and areas with repeated shelter intake, ensuring that resources are directed toward cats with the greatest potential to impact overpopulation. All TNVR activities follow nationally recognized humane handling and veterinary care standards, including safe trapping, sterilization, vaccination, ear-tipping, and timely return to their original locations. For owned cats, eligibility is determined by residence in Arcadia. Arcadia is a historically economically disadvantaged community with limited access to affordable veterinary services. To align with Florida Animal Friend's emphasis on accessibility and removal of financial barriers, income verification is not required and no Arcadia resident is turned away. Services are provided without discrimination based on income level, housing status, race, ethnicity, or other personal characteristics. Through these clear, inclusive eligibility criteria, St. Francis Animal Rescue ensures that Florida Animal Friend funds are used in a humane, equitable, and high-impact manner, expanding access to spay/neuter services for populations most responsible for ongoing cat overpopulation while upholding best practices in animal welfare.

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

The program will be advertised through a coordinated, multi-channel outreach strategy designed to reach both community cat caregivers and owned cat guardians in underserved areas, including individuals with limited internet access. St. Francis Animal Rescue will promote the program through its website and Facebook page, which are primary communication tools for community members seeking assistance with spay/neuter and community cat resources. Experienced local trappers will further extend outreach by sharing program information through their own Facebook pages and community networks, allowing information to reach individuals actively

caring for community cat colonies. Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services will also advertise the program through its website and Facebook page, ensuring consistent messaging and direct access to scheduling information. To reach low-income owned cat guardians in Arcadia—including those without reliable internet access—Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services will distribute printed flyers throughout the community. These materials are provided in both English and Spanish and are placed in high-traffic, community-based locations, helping to remove language and technology barriers. This layered outreach approach ensures the program reaches the intended target audience through trusted sources, multiple platforms, and accessible formats, maximizing awareness, participation, and utilization of Florida Animal Friend-funded spay/neuter services.

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

This program is designed to proactively remove common barriers to participation, ensuring broad and equitable access to no-cost and low-cost spay/neuter services. Transportation barriers are addressed through established partnerships. Transportation for community cats is primarily handled by experienced local trappers, eliminating the need for public participation in transport for TNVR services. For owned cats in Arcadia, Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services operates a mobile spay/neuter unit that serves Arcadia weekly, bringing services directly into the community and significantly reducing travel time and transportation challenges for low-income residents. Literacy and language barriers are addressed through the use of clear, easy-to-understand outreach materials distributed in both English and Spanish. Printed flyers are placed in accessible, high-traffic community locations, allowing residents without internet access to learn about and participate in the program. Cultural barriers are addressed by offering barrier-free, non-judgmental services without income verification, ensuring that all eligible residents feel comfortable seeking assistance. Trusted local trappers and community-based outreach help reinforce program credibility and encourage participation within the community. By integrating mobile services, hands-on assistance, multilingual outreach, and trusted community partnerships, St. Francis Animal Rescue ensures that Florida Animal Friend-funded services are accessible, inclusive, and fully utilized by the target populations.

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

Yes. Transportation of animals by someone other than the client occurs for community cats served through the TNVR component of the program. Transportation of community cats to and from the spay/neuter clinic is primarily handled by experienced local trappers, using humane trapping and transport protocols consistent with accepted TNVR standards. For owned cats, transportation is typically handled by the cat's owner or caregiver. Owned cats in Arcadia are transported by their owners to Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services' mobile spay/neuter unit when it is operating in the community. All transportation associated with this program is conducted in a safe and humane manner, ensuring the well-being of the animals throughout the process.

Veterinary Services

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

St. Francis Animal Rescue has made formal arrangements to partner exclusively with Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services to perform all spay/neuter surgeries funded through this project. Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic located in Port Charlotte, FL, with extensive experience providing sterilization services for both community cats and owned pets.

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
Southwest Florida Spay Neuter Services	941 Tamiami Trail, Suite D	Port Charlotte	FL	33953	941-889-6777	☒

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	\$35.00	\$35.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
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
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:

For owned cats, the surgery cost to neuter a cat is \$25 and \$40 to spay a cat. For TNVR, the surgery cost to spay or neuter a cat is \$35. Examinations are included in the service at no extra charge. Additional services are provided for TNVR cats (FVRCP vaccination and flea treatment which St. Francis Animal Rescue will pay for). St. Francis Animal Rescue will also pay for the additional cost associated with rabies vaccinations over the allowed \$2 from the grant.

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
Cattin' Around Englewood	A team of trappers with whom St. Francis Animal Rescue closely works. They will spearhead the trapping of cats in Charlotte County.
Individual Volunteers	This program relies on community volunteers. We have many volunteer trappers, in addition to the Cattin' Around Englewood members, who monitor cat colonies in Charlotte County
Suncoast Animal Alliance	St. Francis Animal Rescue participates in their monthly roundtable sessions which includes numerous local shelters.

Other Information

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

St. Francis Animal Rescue maintains detailed, accurate records for all TNVR and owned-cat spay/neuter surgeries conducted through this program. Each surgery is tracked by date, location, type of service, and funding source, allowing the organization to monitor progress toward stated objectives and ensure that Florida Animal Friend funds are used exclusively for eligible, grant-supported procedures. This data-driven approach enables ongoing evaluation of program effectiveness, identification of high-need areas, and timely adjustment of outreach and scheduling to maximize surgical volume and impact. Recordkeeping also supports clear financial accountability, accurate reporting, and compliance with all Florida Animal Friend grant requirements. By combining established veterinary partnerships, experienced trappers, targeted outreach, and rigorous data tracking, St. Francis Animal Rescue is well-positioned to operate this program efficiently, transparently, and in a manner that achieves measurable reductions in cat overpopulation within the target communities.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 635 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$40.00

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

St. Francis Animal Rescue provides direct financial support for this program through its operating budget, ensuring that Florida Animal Friend funds are leveraged to maximize impact. In addition to grant funding, St. Francis allocates internal resources to cover costs not supported by the grant, allowing each surgery to include comprehensive preventive care. Specifically, St. Francis Animal Rescue will fund the remaining rabies vaccination costs for both TNVR and owned cats served through this program. In addition, St. Francis will contribute an additional \$10 per TNVR cat to cover FVRCP vaccination and flea treatment. These organizational funds ensure that cats receive essential preventive care beyond sterilization, improving overall health outcomes and supporting humane community cat management. This internal budget allocation demonstrates St. Francis Animal Rescue's financial commitment to the program and ensures that Florida Animal Friend funding supplements—rather than replaces—existing resources, resulting in a cost-effective, high-impact spay/neuter initiative.

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

75

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:** 09/01/27

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.**

St. Francis Animal Rescue is committed to sustaining this spay/neuter program beyond the Florida Animal Friend grant period through a diversified funding strategy that combines budgeted organizational support, grant funding, and community-based fundraising. St. Francis Animal Rescue dedicates a portion of its annual operating budget specifically to community TNVR and owned cat spay/neuter services, ensuring that population control efforts continue year-round. This internal allocation provides a stable foundation that allows the program to operate consistently and absorb fluctuations in external funding. In addition, the organization actively pursues grant funding to expand and enhance spay/neuter capacity. St. Francis has a strong track record of success in this area, including receipt of a \$15,000 spay/neuter grant from the Golisano Foundation in the prior year for this same target population. The organization will continue to seek similar state, regional, and private foundation grants to support both TNVR and owned cat sterilization efforts. Community support is further cultivated through ongoing outreach and targeted fundraising campaigns. St. Francis regularly uses its website, social media platforms, and fundraising appeals to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter and TNVR as humane, cost-effective solutions to cat overpopulation. These efforts generate both unrestricted donations and program-specific contributions that help offset veterinary costs and support long-term sustainability. Through a combination of dedicated budget allocations, proven grant success, and ongoing donor engagement, St. Francis Animal Rescue has a sustainable plan in place to continue and expand spay/neuter services well beyond the term of Florida Animal Friend funding.

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.**

St. Francis Animal Rescue is committed to actively promoting the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate as part of our grant-funded program and will work collaboratively with Florida Animal Friend's marketing firm to maximize visibility and impact. Upon award, St. Francis Animal Rescue will issue a press release announcing the grant, highlighting how Florida Animal Friend funding supports lifesaving spay/neuter services in our community and promoting the purchase of the Florida Animal Friend license plate as a way for supporters to help fund these efforts statewide. Information about the license plate will be featured on our website with a direct link to Florida Animal Friend resources, and included in our electronic newsletters and donor communications. We will also promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate across our social media platforms through scheduled posts, graphics, and stories that connect license plate purchases to real, local impact—specifically the prevention of unwanted litters through TNVR and low-cost spay/neuter services. These posts will be shared multiple times throughout the grant period to ensure sustained visibility. In addition, Florida Animal Friend recognition and license plate promotion will be incorporated into program-related outreach materials, including spay/neuter announcements and educational content when appropriate. We welcome guidance, messaging, and creative assets from Florida Animal Friend's marketing firm and will coordinate closely to ensure consistent branding and effective coverage. St. Francis Animal Rescue will document all promotional activities, including copies of press releases, screenshots of website pages and social media posts, and newsletter distributions, and will submit this documentation with the final grant report in full compliance with Florida Animal Friend reporting requirements.

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

Unknown