

# 2006 FLORIDA ANIMAL FRIEND GRANT APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Entire application must be typed or neatly printed – Sections may be expanded as needed to provide important details, but remember to be concise. Do not change the format of the application.

Name of Applicant Agency: **Affordable Spay/Neuter of Lee County Inc.**

Person Submitting Proposal: **Theresa Ink** Title: **President**

Organization Address: **13422 N. Cleveland Avenue**

City, State, Zip Code: **N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903**

Website Address:

Phone number: **239-652-0596** Fax Number: **239-652-0598**

Cell Number: **239-994-2514** Email Address: **t.ink@worldnet.att.net**

Title of Proposal: **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance**

Total Amount of Funding Requested: **\$20,000.00** Check payable to: **Affordable Spay/Neuter**

Dates of Last Complete Fiscal Year: **1/1/05 to 12/31/05**

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: **\$286,864.00**

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: **\$277,325.00**

Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: **2** Part-time: **1**

Number of Active Volunteers: **2** Total Volunteer Hours per Week: **15**

Describe Your Agency (check all that apply):

### Services Provided

- Unlimited intake shelter
- Limited intake shelter
- Foster network
- Animal control
- Spay/neuter services
- Feral cat sterilization
- Veterinary care to the public

### Organization Structure

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Spay/neuter clinic
- Veterinary association
- Private veterinary clinic
- Community collaboration
- Other (Please explain below)

Grants received in the past five years (if any):

Funder	Funding Period Dates	Purpose	Amount
PetSmart	Dec 2005	Surgery	\$15,000.00
DJ & T Foundation	2004	Surgery	\$21,000.00
DJ & T Foundation	2003	Surgery	\$15,000.00
DJ & T Foundation	2001	Surgery	\$30,000.00
DJ & T Foundation	2000	Surgery	\$20,000.00
			\$

## GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

### Applicant Qualifications:

In the last complete fiscal year:

**80 cats and 40 dogs were handled (describe your animal program)**

**We occasionally take in animals from individuals who can not take care of them. Frequently they are puppies with parvo, mange or ring worm and shelters do not usually have the resources to take care of animals with these types of problems. Sometimes it is easier for me to spay the mother cats when I am taking the kittens. It gives the owner a little more incentive to bring the female to me.**

**3500 cats and 2500 dogs were sterilized (describe your sterilization program)**

**We provide low cost spay/neuter services to low income individuals or those who show need of our services, for example rescue organizations who bring me more than 30 animals per year.**

If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption? **YES**

If not all, what percentage of animals is not currently sterilized before adoption?     %

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption?

If not all, describe your sterilization policies and procedures for assuring sterilization after adoption:

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 ability to carry out this program:

**The Affordable Spay/Neuter Clinic sterilizes about 5500 animals per year. The clinic was opened in 1998 to assist people who were leaving their animals unaltered because of financial limitations. We currently work with two veterinarians, Dr. Elton Gissendanner and Dr. James Drawdy. They are subcontractors working for the Affordable Spay/Neuter Clinic. Dr. Gissendanner has practiced veterinary medicine in the state of Florida for 35 years. He started his first Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic in 1972, in cooperation with the Humane Society of Greater Miami. Dr James Drawdy graduated from the University of Georgia Veterinary School. For many years, he owned and operated a full service practice in Miami Lakes. We currently operate 3 or 4 days per week and perform 30 to 50 surgeries per day.**

**The clinic is located in the poorest section of our county. Many of our clients do not have transportation and we provide it for them. We have never turned down anyone because of their inability to pay. We do however frequently persuade individuals to use the services of their full service veterinarian when they have used them in the past. We are very earnest about wanting a specific clientele to use our services.**

**We have been in business for almost eight years and have performed over 40,000 surgeries. We are beginning to see the effects of our work with a decrease in the euthanasia rates for dogs but unfortunately we are not seeing any reduction in the euthanasia rate for cats.**

Is this a community collaboration involving multiple groups? If so, list each group by contact information and role in the project:

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Group Address</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Role</b>

**Problem statement:**

Pet overpopulation is the number one issue facing companion animals today. More than five million pets are euthanized annually because there are not enough homes for them. It costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion each year to take in, care for, and often euthanize homeless animals. Although education has increased the percentage of animals that are spayed and neutered, more sterilization is needed to reach the critical thresholds necessary to control overpopulation. Since funding for sterilization programs is limited, it is important that available funds be used for programs that target the most significant sources of cat and dog overpopulation and that these programs increase sterilization surgeries above the current baselines of the community.

**Describe the target area:**

Geographical target area (name of city, county, Florida, etc.): **Ft Myers Lee County Hendry County Charlotte County Glades County**

Total human population in target area: **508,638** (information available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)).

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: **4.3** ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 4.0): **127160**

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.8): **105966**

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): **84,773**

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Number of cats **7060** and dogs **6687** admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats **5667** and dogs **3227** euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area? In what way are these resources currently insufficient?

**We are the only spay/neuter service in the area for low income individuals.**

If you currently have a program for sterilization of cats and/or dogs, describe your current level of funding and productivity and why additional resources are needed.

**Most of the people that use our services pay for these services but they frequently have other animals that they are not making an appointment for because they can't pay for all of them. We ask each client - "How many animals do you have at home?" This funding would give us some assistance in reaching all of the animals in their household. In addition, a lot of people don't call us because they don't even have the \$30 to alter a cat. We deal with the homeless and those living totally on public assistance. They have no funds to spay or neuter an animal.**

**Describe the specific target population of the spay/neuter project:**

Pets in low-income families: What qualifications will you use to determine low-income status? **We ask if they are on some type of public assistance and this automatically qualifies them. In addition, if they are not on public assistance but express a financial hardship then we ask more questions. A large percentage of our clients are what we call "working poor". They work in convenience stores, as waitresses, construction unskilled laborers or fast food restaurants. Another part of our business is for the elderly. They can take care of their annual vaccinations but can't quite afford the spay/neuter surgery of a full service veterinarian.**

Special populations (e.g., pit bulls, underserved regions, unique events): **We usually spay/neuter pit bulls with only a few questions to make sure they realize that we are not a full service veterinarian. We will accept anyone from any area as long as they need us and they qualify.**

Neuter-before-adoption of animals from shelters or rescue groups

Feral cat sterilization

Other:

### **Objectives:**

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

**With an additional \$20,000 we should be able to increase our surgery numbers for the year by about 500 animals - 300 cats and 200 dogs. We always ask our clients to help with the cost as much as possible but WE NEVER TURN ANYONE AWAY BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO PAY. Therefore these numbers are an estimate. If the client was paying 50%, we could increase our surgery numbers by 1000 animals.**

### **Methods:**

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

**To determine eligibility, we will ask if the client is on some type of public assistance or we will determine if we think there is a financial need.**

What arrangements have you made with veterinarians to perform the surgeries? Is the veterinarian(s) on your staff, on contract, in a spay/neuter clinic, or in private practice? Please attach a collaboration letter from the lead veterinarian, practice, or association that will provide spay/neuter services.

**Collaboration letter is attached.**

How will you advertise the program? Consider using verbiage such as "limited to the first 50 applicants, one per family" or other restrictions so that you can graciously end the offer as needed. Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience. Attach promotion materials if available.

**We have developed a good relationship with our media over the last eight years. They have always been very receptive to our cause. I have enclosed several prior news articles.**

**I'm not sure about that statement "graciously end the offer". If that is intended to encourage individuals to bring their animals for surgery that sounds like a good idea. But we will not reach our objectives if we turn anyone away who needs us. Reaching this target market is very difficult, word of mouth has been our greatest ally and it has taken years to develop.**

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

**We pick up animals almost every week for those without transportation. Literacy has not been a problem as far as I know. Frequently their children do the translating. Cultural hurdles are harder and we try to explain euthanasia. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes we don't. Male men with male dogs are frequently impossible, even for educated men.**

### **Veterinary fees:**

What is the fee range to be paid for spay and neuter and what is the distribution to be paid by the pet owner vs. the grant program? Keep in mind that Florida Animal Friend grant funds may only be used for costs directly associated with sterilization surgery and not for other items such as vaccines, testing, and licensing.

	<b>Amount Paid by Owner</b>	<b>Amount Paid by Project</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	\$	\$30	\$30
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	\$	\$30	\$30
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	\$	\$40	\$40
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	\$	\$45 - \$60	\$45 - \$60

Is this a voucher program? If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

**No**

**Other information:**

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

**Evaluation:**

Applicant agrees to complete the Grant Follow-up Report and return it to Florida Animal Friend within 12 months of receipt of funds.

**Budget:**

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected: cats **300** dogs **200**

Total budget requested: **\$20,000** Average cost/surgery projected: **\$40**

Budget should not exceed \$20,000. Create a line item for each separate kind of expense that will be covered by the grant funds, such as veterinary fees, surgical supplies, transportation, etc..

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost Each</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Veterinary Fees</b>	\$12000.00		\$12,000
<b>Technician &amp; Assistant</b>	\$3000.00		\$3,000.00
<b>Supplies</b>	\$3000.00		\$3,000.00
<b>Maintenance, cleaning, misc</b>	\$2000.00		\$2,000.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for:

**Timeline:**

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding. Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project.

Projected start date: **8/1/06** Projected end date: **August 2007**

**Future Funding:**

Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having plans beyond “seeking funds from other funders” enhances the chances of receiving this grant.

**If the client is able to participate and help with part of the surgery cost, we will set that money aside to insure that the program continues in the future. Hopefully our track record of 8 years and 40,000 surgeries gives us a little bit of credibility.**

**Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate:**

Applicants selected for funding are expected to publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program via press releases, newsletters, website links, etc. In addition, they are expected to promote the sales of license plates so that additional spay/neuter grants can be funded. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate.

**We have not had much publicity for the Florida Animal Spay/Neuter License Plate in our area. Because of our good relationship with the media and also our friends at Lee County Animal Services, I think the media will want to help us with this promotion. I would welcome some suggestions from others who have more expertise in this area.**

By my signature below, I attest that the information provided in this grant proposal is true and that the proposed spay/neuter program complies with local city, county and state ordinances and laws.

Application submitted by:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **5/29/06**

Name: **Theresa Ink**

Title: **President**