

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: **Humane Society of St. Lucie County**
Person Submitting Proposal: **Kimberly Dean** Title: **Executive Administrator**
Organization Address: **100 Savannah Road, P. O. Box 3661**
City, State, Zip Code: **Fort Pierce, Florida 34948**
Website Address: **www.hsslc.org**
Phone number: **772-461-0687** Fax Number: **772-466-0605**
Cell Number: **772-519-6362** Email Address: **kdean@hsslc.org**

Title of Proposal: **Assistance for Spaying/Neutering for Low Income**
Total Amount of Funding Requested: **\$20,000.00** Check payable to: **Humane Society of St. Lucie County**
Dates of Last Complete Fiscal Year: **10/1/04 to 9/30/05**
Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: **\$1,026,881.00**
Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: **\$970,786.00**
Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: **24** Part-time: **6**
Number of Active Volunteers: **64** Total Volunteer Hours per Week: **80**

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
DJ & T Foundation	10/01/2004- 09/30/2006	Spay/Neuter	\$15,000
Petsmart Charities	10/15/04	Hurricane Relief	\$10,000.00
Albert Schweitzer Foundation	10/25/2005	Hurricane Relief	\$4,000.00
Bernice Barbour Foundation	12/08/2004	Upgrade Security	\$5,000.00
Second Chance Fund	1/26/2006	Katrina Animals	\$1,000.00
			\$

GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Applicant Qualifications:

In the last complete fiscal year:

4161 cats and **4120** dogs were handled (describe your animal program)

Our facility contracts with two cities and one county animal control agencies. We also are contracted to receive any animal brought in by private citizens from those municipalities. All animals are vaccinated upon arrival at our facility. All animals classified as stray are held for five business days. Owner turn-in animals are held for a twenty-four period. After the holding period has expired, all animals are assessed for adoptability; both on health and temperament. If an animal appears to need some assistance or some additional time, we will advise our volunteer program to begin working with that animal or place that animal in foster. We utilize the services of breed rescue when it appears a particular breed may have some difficulties and rescue is the best choice. We encourage all owners picking up their animals to have their animal microchipped for identification as well as sterilized. We attempt to have owners dropping off litters of puppies or kittens meet with our Rescue Coordinator to encourage sterilization and make every attempt to schedule the appointment while the owner is present and available. Our adoption program encourages the adoption of older animals along with providing counseling regarding care of that animal. An animal behaviorist is employed part-time to identify animals needing assistance and to work with our volunteers that work directly with the animals.

879 cats and **900** dogs were sterilized (describe your sterilization program)

We contract with two local veterinarian offices who perform both wellness checks along with spaying/neutering services of all adopted animals. Upon adoption, the animal is transported within twenty-four hours to one of the two facilities and surgery is performed. If surgery can not be performed at that time by veterinarian recommendation, both offices have excellent follow-up for rescheduling surgery and places our facility on notice of non-compliance.

Effective June 2006, our own spay/neuter clinic will be operational which will allow us to begin performing the surgeries on our premises. We have already contracted with a local veterinarian office which will rotate associates working at our facility, throughout the week. We have in the past selected animals on our premises for spay/neutering without adoption due to breed or animals placed in our foster program. We will be looking to spay/neuter all adoptable animals on our premises prior to adoption which would greatly reduce the waiting period once an adoption is approved and in turn, provide us with much needed space.

If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption? **No**

If not all, what percentage of animals is not currently sterilized before adoption? **10%**

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption? **The only animals not sterilized before adoption are those who the veterinarian recommends, for health reasons, that we delay the sterilization.**

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

We contract with two local veterinarians that perform sterilization after adoption. The contract is completed however, the animal is transported by our facility to the vet's office for pickup by the new owner. If for reasons recommended by the vet, that the sterilization of the animal must be postponed, both vet offices have excellent surgery follow up and advise our facility of any non-

compliance. Our local animal control is very pro-active in assisting us in tracking down any owner not in compliance with their adoption contract.

Once our spay/neuter clinic is up and running, we will be sterilizing all animals before 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:

Through a recent bequest, and additional fundrasing from private sources, we have recently completed a multi-year effort to build our own on-site spay/neuter clinic. We have build a full surgery ward complete with preparation room, surgery room, and a separate recovery room. This was accomplished after raising about \$90,000 in private donations, followed by a 6-month renovation of our old cattery, creating our spay/neuter surgery center. We are in the process of recouping some of these funds by providing naming opportunities for the clinic and its various components.

Initially, the clinic will be staffed by a local veterinarian with whom we've contracted. (At present, we complete the adoption and then transport the animal to a local veterinarian for surgery. This will allow us to complete all surgeries on-site.) As soon as it is financially feasible, we will be hiring our own veterinarian.

We are also completing PSA's for our local television stations which will provide spay/neuter information, and also inform the public about our new low-cost spay/neuter services.

Our community is in the process of implementing a Differential Licensing Program. While our grant request does not directly relate to the new licensing program, this new program will create a structure which encourages low-income residents to spay/neuter their pets. By funding our grant proposal, you will help ensure that we are able to follow through on our obligations to St. Lucie County.

Our community leaders recognize that we need to encourage pet owner responsibility and curb the backyard breeding that is prevalent throught our community. The Board of Directors of the Humane Society of St. Lucie County have been meeting with local county officials for over one year to discuss the volume of animals that arrive at our facility, about 10,000 each year, and encourage a joint effort in developing programs and/or ordinances that will encourage spay/neutering and responsible pet ownership, identify animal cruelty and successfully prosecute such cases.

Our local officials are well aware that we have a significant problem with backyard breeding, particularly pit bull breeding. With assistance from the county, we are providing education, through our extensive community education program, on the importance of spaying/neutering, and other aspects of responsible animal care. Our new differential licensing ordinance will allow us and animal control to inventory unsterilized animals in low-income areas of the community and, with the assistance of our spay/neuter program, if the owner qualified as low income, the sterilization would be completed at low/no cost.

St. Lucie County has already pledged that any funds derived from the licensing program will be placed in trust to the Humane Society for operational expenses relating to the direct cost of spay/neuter and miscellaneous program expenses. Our society has recently purchased a software

program called Adopt-A-Friend that provides an additional tool for operating a low-cost spay/neuter program. We will be assigning this responsibility to our Chief Financial Officer, Virginia Jordan, who has a Masters Degree and who has been employed with our facility for over seven years. We also have selected several locations for promoting low-cost spay/neuter opportunities including our facility, county offices, and local veterinarian offices. We have the personnel and the equipment necessary to carry out this program along with continuing support from county officials.

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

Group Name	Group Address	Website	Role
St. Lucie County	101 North Rock Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34945	St. Lucie County, Florida - Dept. of Public Safety	Assistance with identifying low income for purpose of spay/neuter program in accordance with Pet License Ordinance

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.): **St. Lucie County, Florida**

Total human population in target area: **241305** (information available at www.census.gov).

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: **13%** (www.census.gov)

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 4.0): **60326**

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.8): **50272**

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): **40218**

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

Number of cats **4364** and dogs **4566** admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats **3230** and dogs **1800** 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?

For our county, there are only two very small non-profit organizations offering vouchers for low cost spay/neuters through a very limited number of participating veterinarians. The Humane Society of St. Lucie County has limited funding for spay/neutering through a DJ & T Foundation grant program. However, shockingly, we only have one participating vet office to draw from. We have approximately 15 vet offices located in our county but unfortunately most do not provide any services such as low cost spay/neuter or volunteer assistance to the Humane Society or the community at large. It is a very unfortunate situation but one that the Humane Society of St. Lucie County is working very hard to improve. Most were involved with the Humane Society, one way or the other, going back at least fifteen years. When the Spay/Neuter Clinic for the Humane Society was announced, most vets in the area were not supportive initially for various (primarily financial) reasons but the Humane Society has been working hard to dispel any anxiety or misunderstanding the vets may have regarding the opening of our clinic. We are rapidly gaining their full support.

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.

Some of our dog sterilizations are currently funded by Bob Barker's DJ & T Foundation. The remainder are funded through our private fundraising efforts. That grant does not cover any of our cat sterilizations, so all of our cat sterilizations are funded through our private fundraising efforts.

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? **The county, through the tax collector's office, will be performing a "means" test for us. We are in the**

process of establishing a "sliding scale" for the cost of spay/neuter surgery based on income. The sliding scale would be from "no cost" up to a reasonable fee of \$20.00 or \$25.00 per animal.

Special populations (e.g., pit bulls, underserved regions, unique events): **Our community has a severe dogfighting problem, and most of the dogs involved are currently pit bulls. This goes hand-in-hand with a major backyard breeding problem with pit bulls. Working hand-in-hand with Animal Control, we intend to drastically reduce the pit bull population in our county.**

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)?

We hope to use these grant funds to drastically increase the numbers of dogs and cats we can spay/neuter. Depending on how the funds are allocated (i.e. dog or cat, male or female), these funds could help us sterilize as many as 1,000 additional animals who otherwise would not have been sterilized.

Methods:

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

For the low-income recipients of our services, the criteria will be an income-based scale, determined in conjunction with our county Department of Public Safety. For specific target populations such as pit bulls, the only criteria will be an unaltered animal who needs to be sterilized.

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.

Please find attached, a copy of the contract executed by the Humane Society and Tri-County Animal Hospital who will be providing vet services to our facility. Their main responsibility will be to provide spay/neuter services. The vet on duty will also provide medical assistance to any shelter animal when needed. Attached also is a letter of collaboration.

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 are in the process of producing PSAs with our local cable television distributor, which they will air free of charge. We also will be placing advertisements in local newspapers. Sadly, we will not need to do too much advertising, as our shelter is innundated with requests by phone, and walk-ins, for low-cost spay/neuter services. Daily, we receive at least 10 such requests. We will have no problem filling all available spots.

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

Our staff is representative of our community, and therefore we have staff members who are fluent in languages spoken in our community. If the need arises, we will also be working with local churches, and other community outreach organizations, to ensure that the target community is well-aware of the offered service.

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.

	Amount Paid by Owner	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	\$0-20	\$ 10-30	\$30
Range for Female Cats	\$0-20	\$ 20-40	\$40
Range for Male Dogs	\$0-20	\$ 35-65	\$55-65
Range for Female Dogs	\$0-20	\$ 48-100	\$68-100

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

No - All surgeries would take place on our premises

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 350 dogs 300
Total budget requested: \$19,500 Average cost/surgery projected: \$30
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..

Item	Cost Each	Number	Total Cost
Vet Services	\$30.00	650	\$19,500
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

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

All other expenses will be paid for through our private fundraising.

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: 2/1/07

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.

The County and City of Fort Pierce have already pledged to help us continue this program, both through grants from the licensing process, and additional grants. We also have ongoing grants from DJ & T Foundation. We also recently organized a benefit concert featuring Jefferson Starship which raised \$17,000 to be used exclusively for our spay/neuter efforts. We will be holding similiary fundraising events on a regular basis exclusively to supplement our low-income spay/neuter efforts.

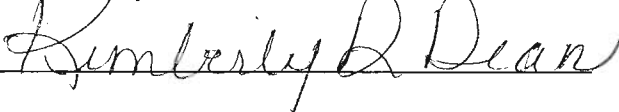
Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate:

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 supported the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate in our community. We have published and requested support of the program in our quarterly newsletter, attending community events explaining the program and securing petition signatures, mentioned the program extensively on both our talk radio show and local tv program as well as provided literature and displayed promotional banners at our shelter.

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: 5/30/06

Name: **Kimberly D. Dean**

Title: **Executive Administrator**