

GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Applicant Qualifications:

In the last complete fiscal year:

462 cats and **590** dogs were handled (describe your animal program)

Jackson County Animal Control is responsible for picking up stray, nuisance, or discarded animals. Those animals are then euthanized if unclaimed after 5 days.

0 cats and **0** dogs were sterilized (describe your sterilization program)

No program in place.

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

If not all, what percentage of animals is not currently sterilized before adoption? **0%**

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

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:

Jackson County Animal Control works under the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners. Our one-person department reports directly to the County Administrator with administrative support provided by the Assistant to the Administrator. Jackson County has been designated by Governor Jeb Bush as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern. Our finance department is well equipped to oversee the financial side of this program, as many of our other departments rely heavily on grant funding. As a rural county government, we are continually looking for ways to enhance the lives of our citizens by offering them affordable services. Under the current County Administration, we would like to begin taking a pro-active approach to Animal Control. We believe this grant could be the first step towards those goals. With the success of this grant, our citizens would begin to see the benefits of spaying and neutering their pets.

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

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.): **Jackson County, Florida**
Total human population in target area: **47692** (information available at www.census.gov).
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: **17%** (www.census.gov)
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 4.0): **11923**
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.8): **9936**
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): **7949**
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Large feral population of animals.

Number of cats **462** and dogs **590** admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)
Number of cats **462** and dogs **590** 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?

Spay and neuter services are very limited in Jackson County. There are only two veterinarians in our county. The average cost to have a dog spayed is \$106, dog neutered \$77, cat spayed \$98 and cat neutered \$60. These prices do not include the other fees associated with an appointment. The average citizen cannot afford to pay these rates. There is no incentive for the local vets to lower their prices. There are low-cost spay/neuter clinics 65 miles away in Panama City and Tallahassee, yet most residents do not have the transportation necessary to take their animals that distance. When animals are not spayed/neutered, unwanted litters are discarded throughout the county. Those litters then die horrible deaths, are picked by animal control and euthanized, or turn feral causing many more problems to the local wildlife.

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.

No current program.

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 intend to use a similar guideline as used by our Housing Grants Coordinator with the SHIP (State Housing Initiative) Program to determine eligibility. Please see attached schedule.**

Special populations (e.g., pit bulls, underserved regions, unique events):

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)?

Our goal is to decrease the number of animals euthanized each year. Low cost spay and neutering will be the first step towards that goal. As we do not have a shelter, the majority of animals picked by Animal Control are euthanized within 5 days. Currently, we pay \$40.00 for every animal that is put down. We would like to take a proactive approach and pay that same \$40.00 towards the spaying/neutering for the animals in our county. The qualifying citizen would pick up a certificate from our office. They could then take that certificate to the veterinarian of their choice for the procedure. If they choose the low cost spay/neuter clinic(s) in the adjoining counties, the entire cost would be paid by this grant. If they choose a local veterinarian, the citizen would be responsible for the remainder of the bill.

Methods:

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

Annual income would be verified by a copy of their Income Tax Return or Pay Stub, as low income eligibility would be as follows:

Family size of 1, Annual income of \$24,200

Family size of 2, Annual income of \$27,650

Family size of 3, Annual income of \$31,100

Family size of 4, Annual income of \$34,550

Family size of 5, Annual income of \$37,300

Family size of 6, Annual income of \$40,100

Family size of 7, Annual income of \$42,850

Family size of 8, Annual income of \$45,600

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.

We have discussed our ideas with the local veterinarians and they are in agreement of the urgent need in our county. With no incentives to lower their prices, the greater benefit for the citizen will be to travel to the adjoining counties low-cost clinics. The citizen will be able to choose the veterinarian of their choice.

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.

Depending on the amount of funding received by the grant, we would advertise accordingly. As a County Government, we advertise with the local newspapers and have weekly radio spots. Flyers will be distributed throughout the county through our other departments (i.e., Library, Health Department, Community Development, Parks and Rec, Building Department, Sheriff's Department, etc.) Being a small county, word will spread like wildfire limiting the participation the first year to one certificate per family. If we receive the full \$20,000, we would be able to provide for 500 spays/neuters in the first year of the program.

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

The full use of the program will ultimately be the citizens' responsibility with an emphasis on responsible pet ownership. As we are providing for the actual cost of the spay/neuter, individual volunteers will assist with any other barriers that are encountered. Volunteer assistance will be coordinated through our administrative offices.

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	\$20	\$40	\$60
Range for Female Cats	\$58	\$40	\$98
Range for Male Dogs	\$37	\$40	\$77
Range for Female Dogs	\$66	\$40	\$106

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

The above costs are an average among the local veterinarians in the county. If the adjoining counties low-cost spay/neuter clinics are utilized, the cost would be \$0 to the citizen.

Arrangements would be made ahead of time with the vet or clinic of choice where the certificates would be honored and later billed back to the County. We would have checks and balances in place to make sure that the person qualifying for the certificate was in deed the owner of the animal and that the service was provided.

Other information:

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

As a new start-up program, we have tried to make this as simple and painless as possible for our residents. The need is there. Our county is overrun by abandoned litters and unwanted pets. We receive calls daily, from citizens who have found litters on the side of the roads or dumped off in their front yards. If the program is utilized for the greatest benefit, it could provide free spay/neuter for those pets. But at the least, a significantly reduced cost for the resident. By allowing their choice of veterinarians, greater participation is expected.

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 **250** dogs **250**
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..

Item	Cost Each	Number	Total Cost
Dog Neuters	\$40.00	125	\$5,000.00
Dog Spays	\$40.00	125	\$5,000.00
Cat Neuters	\$40.00	125	\$5,000.00
Cat Spays	\$40.00	125	\$5,000.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for:
Any additional expenses will be the responsibility of the citizen.

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: **10/1/06** Projected end date: **10/1/07**

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.

Jackson County Animal Control euthanized 1,052 animals during Fiscal Year 04-05. From October to March of this Fiscal Year, we have euthanized 581 animals. Animal Control was budgeted \$66,744 last year for these services. As the Commissioners and the citizens see the success of this program, future funding can be shifted from euthanizing to spay/neuter.

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.

The Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate can be purchased through the Tax Collector's Office in Jackson County. The Tax Collector is a constitutional office that works closing with the Board of County Commissioners. As one program feeds the other, we will work hand in hand to promote both the spay/neuter program and the purchase of the spay/neuter license plate.

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: **5/31/06**

Name: **Paul Dudley**

Title: **Chairman**