

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: **Hardee County BOCC-Animal Control Department**
 Person Submitting Proposal: **Judith George** Title: **Grants Coordinator**
 Organization Address: **412 West Orange Street, Room 201**
 City, State, Zip Code: **Wauchula, FL 33873**
 Website Address: **www.hardeecounty.net**
 Phone number: **863-773-6349** Fax Number: **863-773-5801**
 Cell Number: Email Address: **judith.george@hardeecounty.net**

Title of Proposal: **Hardee County Animal Friend Spay/Neuter Program**
 Total Amount of Funding Requested: **\$20,000.00** Check payable to: **Hardee County BOCC**
 Dates of Last Complete Fiscal Year: **10/1/04 to 9/30/05**
 Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: **\$7,897.00**
 Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: **\$108,914.00**
 Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: **3** Part-time: **0**
 Number of Active Volunteers: **0** Total Volunteer Hours per Week: **0**

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
FACA (FL Animal Control Ass'n)	12/05 (one-time)	Pet cages (used for cats)	\$300.00
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Applicant Qualifications:

In the last complete fiscal year:

685 cats and 805 dogs were handled (describe your animal program)

Animals are either brought into Animal Control by residents, or picked up by Field Services as a result of a complaint call, animal found sick, found abandoned, or surrendered by owner. The Animal Control Officers also respond to calls from the Sheriff's Office, and assist on calls with the 3 city municipalities.

11 cats and 72 dogs were sterilized (describe your sterilization program)

For FY 04-05, 104 vouchers were issued for pet sterilization. Of that number 11 vouchers were not processed, due to animal's ages (below the age range for spay/neuter procedures).

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? **5%**

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption? **Currently a voucher program is being utilized whereby animals are transported to a licensed vet (if animal is of age) for sterilization immediately following adoption from Animal Control. If the pet being adopted is under the age for sterilization, a voucher is given to the client.**

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

Hardee County Animal Control currently issues spay/neuter vouchers to everyone who adopts a pet from our shelter. Staff check the adopters history with Animal Control before approving any adoptions. The adopted pet is transported to the veterinarian of the adopter's choice by Hardee County Animal Control Staff, accompanied by the original spay/neuter voucher. Once spay/neuter has been performed the adopter is notified by the Veterinarian that their pet is ready to be picked up. The Veterinarian mails the completed original voucher directly to Hardee County Animal Control where it is processed for payment to the Veterinarian. Hardee County Animal Control transports the pet and the voucher directly to the Veterinarian, thus eliminating the problems of not having the procedure performed or of the voucher not being returned. This practice has been in effect since May 2005, resulting in the highest rate of completed sterilization procedures than in any previous years.

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 spay/neuter program planned for these grant funds would require the applicant to meet specific requirements, and a program similar to the voucher program we have now will be utilized. The County staff includes two Certified Animal Control Officers who will transport animals to local veterinary hospitals. The Animal Control Director and Administrative assistant, in addition to the Grants Coordinator, will ensure that the procedures are completed in a timely manner, and that stringent records are kept and reports are provided to detail the interest and success rate of this program for our area.

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
Hardee Animal Clinic	1927 US Hwy 17 North, Wauchula, FL 33873		Veterinary services
Pet Care Center	915 North 6th Avenue Wauchula, FL 33873	www.888PETVET.com	Veterinary services

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.): **Hardee County, Florida**

Total human population in target area: **27987** (information available at www.census.gov).

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: **25%** (www.census.gov)

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 4.0): **6997**

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.8): **5831**

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): **4665**

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

Feral cat higher due to hurricanes, migrant moving, dense forests

Number of cats **685** and dogs **805** admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats **603** and dogs **648** 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?

Local veterinary charge for spay/neutering is over \$100. Due to lower income population and large migrant population these resources are under-utilized. Under the current voucher program, Animal Control is charged \$25 for sterilization services following adoption, and the veterinarians absorb the difference in cost. Under the proposed program, more county residents will be motivated and assisted to utilize sterilization services not necessitated by adoption, and as a result of awareness due to advertisement of the program.

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.

The program that is currently used is only for pets being adopted from Animal Control, not for pets that have a home. The proposed program will assist pet-owners that otherwise would not be able to have their animals sterilized to do so, thus reducing the number of unwanted abandoned pets, and reducing the number of pets forced to be euthanized annually by Animal Control.

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?

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

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

Feral cat sterilization

Other: **Pet sterilization assistance offered to unincorporated Hardee County residents**

Objectives:

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

Control pet population and increase public awareness of importance of spay/neuter procedures.

Methods:

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

Must provide two proofs of residence in unincorporated Hardee County, must provide proof of an up-to-date rabies vaccination for the animal (available at reduced rate through special vaccination programs), limited to two per household, owner must be 18 or older. Animal Control will provide a voucher to be used within a specific time period.

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.

Rates have been established for procedures performed by two local veterinarians in private practice at two local veterinary clinics. Collaboration letters are 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.

Local newspapers, radio stations (English and Spanish), website. Flyers to be posted at local grocery and retail stores, public bulletin boards, local churches and laundromats

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

There are two Spanish-speaking employees on staff at Animal Control. Brochures and flyers will also be produced in Spanish.

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	\$25	\$40	\$65
Range for Female Cats	\$25	\$40	\$65
Range for Male Dogs	\$25	\$75	\$100
Range for Female Dogs	\$25	\$75	\$100

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

Yes. Compliance will be assured as Animal Control will deal directly with the veterinarian, not the client.

Other information:

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

Local animal overpopulation has always been a problem in Hardee County due to income levels, high number of migrant residents that often leave the area and leave their pets behind, and a large area of this rural county that is uninhabited and contains wooded areas perfect for breeding and concealment of feral cats and abandoned pets. This program will provide an opportunity for local veterinarians to perform sterilization procedures without sustaining a financial loss, and allow and encourage all county residents to utilize veterinary services where they might otherwise not be able to as services will not be limited to those adopting new pets.

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 **135**
 Total budget requested: **\$20,000** Average cost/surgery projected: **\$60**
 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
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

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: **10/1/06** Projected end date: **8/30/07**

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.

Fund-raisers, donations, funding from BOCC for balance

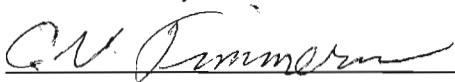
Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate:

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 Animal Friend license plate will be advertised on the Hardee County website, in addition to the Tax Collector's website listing of speciality plates. Animal Friend flyers in English and Spanish will be on hand at the Animal Control department for information to residents. License plates will be advertised on radio, in newspaper and on website in regard to the Spay/Neuter Program, should grant funds be received.

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: 5/26/06

Name: **Clifton N. Timmerman**
Commissioners

Title: **Chairman, Hardee County Board of County**