

GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Applicant Qualifications:

In the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and **0** dogs were handled (describe your animal program)

The Rooneys are building a PAWS Facility on their property in Hamilton County to house a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, limited intake shelter, and dog training center.

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

Our first formal spay/neuter project "PAWS to SPAY" began March 15, 2006. We have spayed 14 animals (2 cats and 12 dogs) to date and are continuing to issue Vouchers to low-income pet owners to spay their female dogs and cats.

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

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:

North Florida PAWS (NF PAWS) was incorporated on February 14, 2000, to support existing animal rescues and shelters in rural North Central Florida and carry out relevant programs as described on our website. NF PAWS informally organized The "North Central Florida Animal Alliance" and determined that we must use most of our resources for spay/neuter to make a significant impact on the homeless, abused and neglected animal population. We raised \$8,000 for our first SNIIP project "PAWS to SPAY" Vouchers as described in Attachment C. Two board members, Katie and Doug Rooney, are building a facility for NF PAWS in Hamilton County to house a low-cost spay/neuter clinic and operate a limited intake shelter. A mobile spay/neuter Unit is also planned. Our officers have the expertise in human resources, finance, veterinary medicine, nursing, and animal handling to carry out all aspects of a spay/neuter program. In addition to qualifications listed in Attachment B, Doug Rooney, RN, is NF PAWS' representative with FACA and has completed the 40-hour Animal Control and Chemical Capture courses.

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
The 12 NCF Animal Alliance members are listed in Attachment A.			

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.): **Our service (commuting) area includes eight counties: Baker, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Union. U.S. Census data estimated 200,000 people in 2005; however, this area is one of the fastest growing in Florida. The number of pets in our area is higher than average due to the poverty, low education level, and very limited spay/neuter assistance. Sheltering is extremely limited and non-existent in many areas. Estimate of animals taken and euthanized last year is based on figures reported by Columbia County Animal Shelter/Control representing 64,000 people. Extending the equation of 7,000 euthanized per 64,000 people, there would be 22,000 euthanized for a population of 200,000. Unfortunately, the majority of unwanted pets are abandoned or killed.**

Total human population in target area: **200000** (information available at www.census.gov).

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: **18%** (www.census.gov)

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 4.0): **50000**

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.8): **41667**

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): **33333**

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

Number of cats **4500** and dogs **5500** admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats **3000** and dogs **4000** 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?

The following organizations provide spay/neuter assistance in our service area and is woefully insufficient to meet the needs of the lowest income citizens let alone others who also need financial assistance (numbers represent estimated annual numbers). North Florida PAWS, Inc. (current funding for 80-100 vouchers), Suwannee Valley Humane Society (100-150 Coupons valued at \$10 - \$50 for low-income owners and \$10 coupons for anyone), 4 Pets Sake, Inc. (average 100 spay/neuters with co-pay of one-third cost of surgery). Periodically, the Lake City/ColumbiaCounty Humane Society offers \$25 coupons.

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.

In March, we began our PAWS to SPAY Program with \$8,000 in our SNiP Bank Account and have paid \$1,495 for 14 spays offset by \$180 in co-payments. The remaining \$6,685 will fund 80 to 85 surgeries. This grant will assure sufficient funding to meet increasing demand for spays/neuters and give us time to conduct additional fundraising activities.

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 application requires the amount and source of income for each member of the household. Total income from all sources cannot exceed \$24,000 per year.**

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

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

Feral cat sterilization

Other: **Caretakers of feral cat colonies are deemed "owners" and eligible for our program.**

Objectives:

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

Sterilize dogs and cats (at 8 weeks and older) belonging to the lowest income pet owners and caretakers of feral cat colonies in our geographical region. These pets are at a higher risk of pregnancy due to living conditions. A thank you letter in Attachment C supports this statement. With more than 40,000 households below the poverty level, there are thousands of owned dogs and cats eligible for this program. Vouchers will be restricted to 80% female and 20% male. An analysis of the veterinary charges and co-payments indicates the average surgical cost is \$80. With an additional \$20,000, we anticipate sterilizing over 250 additional animals. When our low-cost spay/neuter clinic is operational, the cost will be reduced and even more animals will be sterilized.

Methods:

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

Eligibility is solely based on income. There are no restrictions such as residency requirements or artificial limits on number of pets per household.

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.

Dr. Mike Huston, Huston Veterinary Clinic in Jasper, is the lead veterinarian (letter in Attachment B). In addition, the following veterinary clinics are accepting PAWS to SPAY Vouchers: All Springs Veterinary Clinic in Wellborn, Suwannee Oaks Animal Clinic in O'Brien, and Mayo Town & Country Veterinary Clinic in Mayo. With additional funding, we will recruit more veterinarians in the service area.

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.

Flyers posted and applications available at senior centers, public assistance offices, participating veterinarian offices, and other offices visited by low-income individuals. Public Service Announcements and advertisements in community newspapers. Alliance members will advertise and promote the voucher program in their local communities using their personal contacts with community and church leaders. To be successful in our rural communities, we need the support of local leaders whom the people will trust. As suggested, a qualifier such as "while funds are available" (similar to "while supplies last") will be added to all publications.

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

Alliance members may provide transportation for their constituents to local veterinarians and North Florida PAWS may use a Ford E350 Van owned by two Board members as needed. The service area has many spanish-speaking residents so flyers, applications, and instructions will be translated and distributed in spanish. Cultural differences may be overcome by establishing relationships with community and church leaders.

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	\$ 10 - 50	\$ 10 - 50	\$ 35 - 60
Range for Female Cats	\$ 10 - 50	\$ 15 - 85	\$ 65 - 95
Range for Male Dogs	\$ 10 - 50	\$ 25 - 80	\$ 75 - 90
Range for Female Dogs	\$ 10 - 50	\$ 25 - 125	\$ 75 - 135

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

The co-payment is made prior to receiving the voucher and making the veterinary appointment with 90 days to complete the surgery. If the voucher is not used, the co-payment is forfeited. Since they have already paid for the voucher and there are no additional charges for the surgery, the owner has total incentive to follow through with the surgery.

Other information:

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

North Florida PAWS, as the lead agency for the NCF Animal Alliance, is responsible for raising all the funds for the SNiP Program and the Alliance members have agreed to participate in programs to provide spay/neuter services in their local communities without the burden of a financial commitment. With this grant added to our current and expected funds, we can build a successful and sustainable network of spay/neuter services throughout this region.

North Florida PAWS is a stable organization with personnel very capable of managing a successful program of this magnitude. Hamilton County Commissioners and officials have been most supportive of our organization and the PAWS Facility being built in their County. In fact, the 28-acre property was purchased from the County for only \$30,000 because of their desire for us to headquarter in their County.

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 **75** dogs **175**

Total budget requested: **\$20,000** Average cost/surgery projected: **\$80**

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
Surgery (Females)	\$90.00	200	\$18,000.00
Surgery (Males)	\$40.00	50	\$2,000.00
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

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

Associated expenses such as transportation, advertising, etc., will be solely paid from NF PAWS' General Fund account.

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: **9/30/07**

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.

North Florida PAWS will continue funding for the SNiP Program (Vouchers, a fixed Clinic and mobile Unit) through fund raising projects and events, sponsorships, public donations, income from dog training classes and seminars, net profit from sales of pet supplies, and grants. The number of pet sterilizations will only be limited by the amount of money raised from a variety of sources.


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 already been promoting the Florida Animal Friend License plate on our website and will continue to do so through the website and all paper and e-mail publications. Our Board of Directors' have Animal Friend License plates on their vehicles. If we are fortunate enough to receive a grant, we will issue Press Releases to newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations in the service area. We will encourage any Alliance members who do not already advertise the license plate to do so. Everywhere one of our speakers appears, the License Plate will be promoted. All reasonable recommendations will be accepted.

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: **Katie Rooney**

Title: **President**