

2008 FLORIDA ANIMAL FRIEND GRANT APPLICATION

Application must be RECEIVED BY: April 1, 2008

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Entire application must be typed. 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: Animal Refuge Center

Person Submitting Proposal: Betty Hughes Title: Board CFO & Treasurer

Organization Address: 18011 Old Bayshore Road

City, State, Zip Code: N Ft Myers, Florida 33917

Website Address: www.animalrefuge.com

Phone number: 239-731-3535 Fax Number:

Cell Number: 239-841-0810 Email Address: bettyhughes@comcast.net

Dates of Last Complete Fiscal Year: 01/01/2007 to 12/31/2007 (MM/DD/YY)

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$ \$ 518,475.78

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$ \$562,066.64

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): 2006

Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: 6 Part-time: 11

Number of Active Volunteers: 135 Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 380

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
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Structure

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Spay/neuter clinic
- Veterinary association
- Private veterinary clinic
- Community collaboration
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Qualifications:

For your organization, In the last complete fiscal year:

185 cats and 93 dogs were admitted

140 cats and 86 dogs were adopted

662 cats and 265 dogs were sterilized

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized

Describe your animal programs:

ARC operates a no-kill, limited intake sanctuary and adoption center for cats and dogs in N. Ft Myers, Fl Current capacity is 450 cats and dogs. Cats live free roaming in furnished "home style" feline houses and cottages each with screened wrap around porches. Interior building in each structure is air-conditioned and equipped with a laundry room, kitchen and some with bathrooms. Dogs live in air-conditioned screened lodges capable of 2-3 dogs and each lodge opens up to a fenced in excersize yard.

ARC offers free spay-neuter surgeries performed at area veterinarians at a negotiated average price of \$40. Volume is extrememly heavy and over 650 surgeries were approved in 2007. Requests approved are hampered by the need for more funds although in 2007 we had \$24,000 to offer to the public. The need in Lee County just from our program is twice what we can currently support.

ARC has an active Humane Education program in county schools ranging from Kindergarten up through High School. ARC is currently developing a program with the help of Florida Gulf Coast University in promoting adoptions.

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

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:

Betty Hughes, current CFO and Board Treasurer will continue to be in charge of this program. She has been serving as CFO for 8 years, coordinates all fundraising and marketing materials and directs the organizations largest fundraiser of the year...the annual auction which nets over \$100,000 annually. Previous to retiring 5 years ago in order to volunteer full-time for ARC she was an accountant for 15 years (12 with General Electric Corporate Headquarters in Ft Myers).

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

Lee County Animal Services has a mobile spay neuter vehicle which targets specific areas but only runs 3 days a week. Affordable Spay Neuter Clinic offers \$70 - \$90 surgeries to the public but that is still out of economic reach for the majority of our low income population. We are also the only agency that supports Trap-Neuter- Release and provides volumn surgeries to contain and control ferel colonies in Lee County. Our grants have avoided thousands of litters from being born and is a humane alternative to trap and euthanize which is well documented as an ineffective way to control the ferel cat populations. Entire colonies have been sterilized through our grants.

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.

ARC currently has been able to fund 350 surgeries with its own resources...an increase of 57%. However 2007 was the year that public awareness of our services came to the forefront as the top agency to come to for ferel cat population control and public assistance. We have approved over 650 surgeries and could easily approve over 1000 if we could obtain a full grant of \$20,000 from Florida Animal Friends.

While our grant process targets Lee County word has spread to Collier County and Charlotte County that we have a network of clincs and vets to refer people to at no cost to them if they qualify. We are the only agency that will actively support sterilization of ferel cat colonies in SW Florida.

## GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Title of Proposal: Grant for Low Income Pet Owners Sterilizations and Feral Cat Colony Sterilizations

Total Amount of Funding Requested: \$ 20,000 Check payable to: Animal Refuge Center Inc

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:

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.): Lee County Florida

Total human population in target area: 571344 (information available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: 9.0 ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): 173134

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): 142836

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): 95244

Number of cats 8198 and dogs 7550 admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats 6917 and dogs 3724 euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

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

Our feral cat population could be extremely high due to the poor economic conditions in SW Florida and now with the foreclosure rate leading the nation we are seeing an increase in stray unaltered cats being abandoned outdoors. People are walking away from their homes and setting the cats free in the hopes they can survive. This is from testimony from neighbors and many times the people are turning out mother cats and their kittens because they were trying to provide for them.

Also being still a largely rural area people tend to have more pets per capital because they have the room to have 5-10 dogs and 15 cats. The lack of spaying and neutering and keeping pets confined or on a leash also adds to the pet overpopulation. We have numerous packs of free roaming dogs here who continue to create puppies.

While our in-town population probably does follow the normal statistics there is a definite possibility that our immense rural and "live and let live" mentality in the rural areas coupled with very low incomes just keeps perpetuating the problem.

Describe the specific target animal population of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:

Pets in low-income families: What qualifications will you use to determine low-income status? We set the standard to families of 4 earning less than \$40K a year, families on fixed incomes or disability income. This year we are also giving consideration to people collecting unemployment. Our rate of unemployment is rising steadily in this area combined with foreclosure rates we feel the prime purpose is to avoid creation of unwanted litters. It is too risky to hope families will find employment and then take care of their pets sterilization.

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

Feral cat sterilization

Other:

Objectives:

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

\$20,000 would allow ARC to provide an additional (on average of \$40 per surgery) 500 surgeries in SW Florida but primarily Lee County. We are confident that ARC can raise an additional \$20,000 through donations, estates, marketing of spay-neuter items, and other grant opportunities and provide another 500 surgeries free of cost to the public.

Our goal of 1,000 surgeries is attainable. The answer to ending euthanasia in Lee County is not to house them all at our sanctuary. It is to prevent unwanted litters in the first place. There was a time when our puppies and kittens flew out the door.....now it can take 3 months to place them in a qualified home. The available homes in our area are shrinking and economic times continue to deteriorate. Efforts to spay and neuter must be doubled this year and not just for pets but for ferals.

How does this program increase the number of sterilization surgeries above the existing baseline?

This program would allow ARC to double the number of surgeries awarded to needy families which was 447 cats and 160 dogs in 2007.

Methods:

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

Applicants must be receiving public assistance, temporary assistance for needy families, low income housing assistance, supplemental social security income, medicaid, adoption assistance, foster care assistance or unemployment benefits.

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience. Attach promotion materials if available.

We advertise grants monies available in every bi-monthly newsletter, promote it on Fox-4 Morning Blend 2x a month, place articles in area newspapers, bring Spanish and English flyers to all off-site events promoting grant money and sale of license plates.

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

ARC is a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and our newest Board member speaks fluent Spanish and is a retired school teacher. This will allow ARC to target the Hispanic population to a more effective level. All materials are in Spanish as well as English. ARC also has a active spay-neuter education programs in area schools to address cultural hurdles. If someone has transportation hurdles we refer them to Lee County Animal Services which has a mobile spay unit.

Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe the vehicles, methods for confinement, personnel training, liability releases used to assure the safety of the animals and handlers.

No we are not staffed to provide transportation. As a volunteer based organization it would not be fair to them to expose themselves to liability issues.

Veterinary Services:

What arrangements have you made with veterinarians to perform the surgeries?

Our existing relationship with the local low cost spay-neuter clinic and veterinarians in the ARC Alliance has been able to handle the volumn to date. ARC has just reached an agreement with the local Humane Society to handle all additional volumn of surgeries for the same price as the lowest cost provider in town as well as two new private veterinarian practices.

Please attach a collaboration letter from the lead veterinarian, practice, or association that will provide spay/neuter services. The letter should include a statement describing the fee schedule to be followed and whether the veterinarian(s) are on your staff, on contract, in a spay/neuter clinic, or in private practice. Please list all of the participating veterinarians or veterinary practices below, including address, phone number, and premise permit number (available at [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com)).

Name	Address	Phone
Animal Clinic at Kelly Crossing	_____16120 San Carlos Blvd Ft Myers FL	239-350-3902 permit pending
Affordable Spay Neuter Clinic	_____13410 N Cleveland Ave N Ft Myers Fl	_____239-652-0596 permit # VE 2710
Gulf Coast Humane Society	_210 Arcadia Street Ft Myers Fl	_____239-332-0364 permit pending
Daniels Parkway Animal Hospital	_6900 Daniels PArkway Ft Myers	____239-768-5555 permit # VM 3410

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

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35
Range for Female Cats	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35
Range for Male Dogs	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Range for Female Dogs	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50

Please check each item below to indicate whether additional services are required at the time of surgery and whether the client is required to pay for them.

	Included in Cost	Not Offered	Optional	Required	Amt. Paid by Client
Examination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 0
Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$ 15 rabies
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 0
Parasite Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Testing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Ear tipping	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

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

Requestor fills out a request form and attaches proof of need. This is reviewed by Betty Hughes and a copy is kept on file. Original is sent back to requestor and they bring it to the Vets that participate in this program. Billing from Vet is direct to the Animal Refuge Center and compared to copies of request forms on file.

**Other Information:**

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

It would almost impossible for this program NOT to meet its goals because the need is so tremendous in SW Florida. The biggest challenge is the paperwork side of the approval process. The only change ARC needs to do (and is actively putting in place) is to recruit 2 key volunteers to do the administrative side of this project which is to mail forms, make copies and logging completed forms. Fielding the calls, screening and cross referencing final billing to approved requests will still be done by ARC's Treasurer and Director of Spay Grants; Betty Hughes.

**Budget:**

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected: cats 350 dogs 150

Total budget requested: \$ 20000 Average cost/surgery projected: \$ 40

Budget should not exceed \$20,000.

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

Lee County requires all pets have their rabies shot when sterilized so clients do need to have \$15 to cover the cost of that. Historically they have been able to cover this cost, even people who are doing TNR.

**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. Funding for accepted projects will be available after August 1, 2008.

Projected start date: 08/01/2008    Projected end date: 08/01/2009 (MM/DD/YY)

**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.

We sell spay-neuter magnets for \$5 each, we do one direct mail appeal to membership base per year which generates on average \$7,000, we earmark 3% of any estate that comes in for spay-neuter, we generate funds from pet calendar sales. In 2007 we raised \$17,000 for spay-neuter programs and still cannot cover all the requests that come in from people on low income, public assistance or fixed income. Ft Myers is one of the most depressed areas in Florida and currently has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation.

ARC has established itself during 2006-2007 years as the number one resource for people who need assistance to come to. We are the ONLY source of funding in this area for spaying ferrel cat colonies. These funds not only contribute to controlling pet over-population but also save the lives of strays that people want to open their hearts and homes to but just can't afford the veterinary procedures. I (Betty Hughes) have been a Board member for 8 years with the Animal Refuge Center and finally I am seeing the community actively attempt to do the right thing regarding spaying & neutering. I thank you for your consideration to our grant request and respectfully request you award us the full amount requested so that we may continue to be the best resource in SW Florida for spay-neuter grant approvals. Our momentum is in full force.....please help us to forge ahead!

**Evaluation:**

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

**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.

Our web-site [www.animalrefuge.com](http://www.animalrefuge.com) has a link to the dmv web-site and Florida Animal Friend. Our bi-monthly newsletter always promotes the sale of license plates and availability of our spay-neuter grants. We promote both on local Fox-4 News guest appearances twice monthly, we have flyers at all events (attached).

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, state and national ordinances and laws.

Application submitted by:

*Revised 1/15/08*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 03/19/2008 (MM/DD/YY)

Name: Betty Hughes Title: CFO - Board Treasurer

## CHECKLIST OF ATTACHMENTS AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Organize the completed applications in the following order and complete checklist.

	Nonprofit Agencies	Municipal Agencies
1	Grant application	Grant application
2	Checklist	Checklist
3	Veterinary collaboration letter(s)	Veterinary collaboration letter(s)
4	Current fiscal year agency budget	Current fiscal year agency budget
5	Roster of board of directors	Letter of support from director
6	IRS 501(c)3 determination letter	Media coverage, brochures, PSAs, etc.
7	FL DOACS registration certificate	
8	IRS 990 or 990 EZ	
9	Media coverage, brochures, PSAs, etc.	

For all applicants:

- Completed grant application (hard copies and electronic copy)
- Veterinary collaboration letter for spay/neuter services
- Copies of newsletters, media clippings, public service announcements, brochures, etc. that pertain to the applicant's spay/neuter program (hard copies only, no videos, DVDs, etc).

For private nonprofit agencies:

- Current fiscal year agency budget
- Roster of applicant's board of directors, including address, phone number, email address, occupation and whether board members are compensated for their positions.
- IRS Tax Exempt #65-0057419 (attach determination letter)
- FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Registration # CH-10653 (attach)
- Most recent IRS Form 990 (pages 1-4 & signature page) or 990EZ (page 1-2 & signature page).

For city, county, or tribal entities:

- For city and county governments, attach current fiscal year agency budget, the line item that the funds would be deposited into, a letter from the director of the city or county animal care and control agency on city or county letterhead clearly indicating support for the application of the grant proposal.
- For tribal entities, attach a letter signed from the Tribal Authority of the local Tribal Health Department.

Applications must be received by the due date of **April 1, 2008** to be considered in the current cycle. Applications received after the due date and incomplete applications will be returned without review. It is advisable to use a carrier that offers a guaranteed delivery date. Completed applications, including the grant application form, required supporting documents, and other attachments must be submitted together as a complete packet. Please submit 1 original and 4 identical hard copies of the application and all attachments for review. Each copy should be stapled or compiled with a binder clip. Do not use binders, folders, or other display materials for the applications. Please also email 1 copy of the application (signatures and attachments not required) to the address below.

Send 1 original and 4 hard copies of application or grant submission inquiries to: Florida Animal Friend, Inc., c/o Lois Kostroski, 13153 North Dale Mabry, Suite 105, Tampa, FL 33618, 866-303-3222, [info@floridanimalfriend.org](mailto:info@floridanimalfriend.org).

Send 1 electronic copy or content inquiries to: Julie Levy, [levyj@vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:levyj@vetmed.ufl.edu), (352) 392-2226 ext 5717