

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: Suncoast Animal League

Person Submitting Proposal: Rick Chaboudy Title: Executive Director

Organization Address: 1030 Pennsylvania Avenue

City, State, Zip Code: Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Website Address: info@suncoastanimalleague

Phone number: 727-786-1330 Fax Number: 727-786-1377

Cell Number: 727-542-8945 Email Address: info@suncoastanimalleague.net

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$141,926

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$138,254

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

Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: 1 Part-time: 4

Number of Active Volunteers: 72 Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 150

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:

656 cats and 164 dogs were admitted

501 cats and 149 dogs were adopted

583 cats and 146 dogs were sterilized

10 cats and 1 dogs were euthanized

Describe your animal programs:

The Suncoast Animal League, located in northern Pinellas County is dedicated to the needs of the community as it relates to the protection and welfare of its animals. We currently operate a no-kill shelter and adoption program for cats and dogs. All animals are sterilized, vaccinated, tested and microchipped prior to adoption. Veterinary services are provided on a per procedure basis for resident animals. We also provide foster-care, socialization and /or medical care to those animals in need prior to their adoption. In addition, in conjunction with partner veterinarians, we provide extremely limited low cost and/or no cost sterilization services to community residents in special circumstances.

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:

Rick Chaboudy, former Executive Director of the Humane Society of Pinellas will be in charge of this program. He is a well-known and experienced animal advocate, not only throughout the Tampa Bay area, but nationally. During his 20-year tenure as Executive Director of the Humane Society of Pinellas, Rick initiated numerous programs aimed at decreasing pet overpopulation in Pinellas county, thorough high-volume, low-cost sterilization programs. These included the Neuter-a-thon, held for 12 years, at which approximately 480 animals were sterilized annually at a fee of \$5.00 per animal. In addition, under Rick's direction, SNIP (Spay/Neuter Incentive Program) provided low cost spay/neuter surgeries for approximately 1820 animals over 14 years.

In December of 2006, Rick and several experienced volunteers opened the non-profit, Suncoast Animal League in north Pinellas County. In the past fiscal year, the League took in 820 homeless animals and found homes for 650 of them. A total of 729 of these animals were sterilized with the cooperation of local veterinarians. These sterilizations were funded strictly through adoption fees, small grants, sellables, donations, microchip clinics and our annual fundraisers like the Fix Pinellas Mutt March and Brighten Their Future. In addition to our shelter and adoption services, we have an extensive and experienced foster-care network to house, socialize and rehabilitate both cats and dogs. We have recently formed a partnership with Tarpon Springs High School Veterinary Science program for which Rick is now a member of the program board. Many students from this program are currently volunteering at the League. Through this new partnership,

students have the opportunity to observe sterilizations performed by program veterinarians on shelter animals. These sterilizations are performed for free as part of our working agreement with the student veterinary program.

Because The Suncoast Animal League operates as a shelter, we are reminded daily of the growing severity of the pet overpopulation problem in Pinellas and Pasco counties. In order to more aggressively work toward solving this problem, we are seeking these funds to provide a low cost and incom-qualified no cost spay/neuter option for cats.

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

Currently PAWS (Pasco Animal Welfare Society) located in central Pasco county is the only fulltime, non-profit, low cost spay/neuter clinic in the Pinellas/Pasco county area. They provide spay-neuter services by appointment, with fees ranging from \$25 to \$35 for cats. In Pinellas county, The Humane Society, located in Clearwater, provides low-cost sterilization services at its annual Hooters for Neuters event but does not operate a regularly scheduled low-cost spay/neuter program. The Animal Services Animobile provides low cost sterilization services for income qualified residents of Pinellas County but residents must be able to transport their animal to a designated location at a designated time. The SPCA of Tampa Bay also offers low cost spay/neuter services to income-qualified residents through its Friends of Family Pets program. Applicants for services must go to the SPCA to complete application paperwork and, if qualified, transport their pet to participating veterinarian's office at an appointed time and date. The one barrier to services for all of these programs is that they require pet owners to transport their animals to a specific location in order to access sterilization services. Many times those low-income residents targeted for services are the same people who rely solely on public transportation. Thus, they are unable to get their animals to a clinic or central pick-up site to take advantage of the services offered.

The cost of living in the Pinellas/Pasco area has risen substantially of late, mostly due to increased property taxes, insurance and rental rates. Slightly more than 1 in 10 residents of the area live below poverty level and many elderly are on fixed incomes. Because of these added expenses, many residents cannot afford even the most nominal of fees for sterilization of their animals. There are also the hoarders who have so many cats they cannot pay to sterilize all of them. These individuals are reluctant to contact animal agencies for help for fear their cats will be euthanized. The cats continue to breed and the situation becomes exponentially worse until law enforcement becomes involved.

The Suncoast Animal League's "Be Litter Free" program will not only provide low cost spay/neuter services but we will offer no cost sterilization and transportation services to insure qualified low income residents can take advantage of our program. Because of our shelter capabilities and foster network, we can also place adoptable cats in appropriate homes (in the case of hoarders) after they are sterilized.

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.

During the past fiscal year, the Suncoast Animal League, by partnering with local veterinarians, has sterilized 729 resident animals. These sterilizations were paid for solely through donations, adoption fees, small grants and fund raising events throughout the community. With current funding we are only able to sterilize shelter resident animals (both surrenders and strays), prior to adoption. We are seeking additional funds to provide to provide low cost sterilization for cats belonging to residents of Pinellas and Pasco counties. In addition, we will provide no cost services, including transportation, for pets of elderly, low income and those residents identified as hoarders.



GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Title of Proposal: Be Litter-Free

Total Amount of Funding Requested: \$ 20,000 Check payable to: Suncoast Animal League

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
Tarpon Springs High School	1411 S. Gulf Rd, Tarpon Springs, FL		Community Education
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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.): Pinellas/Pasco counties

Total human population in target area: 1380152 (information available at www.census.gov)

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: 158,652 (www.census.gov)

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): 418227

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): 345038

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): 230025

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

Number of cats and dogs 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.

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? proof of receipt of public assistance
- Special populations (e.g., pit bulls, underserved regions, unique events): hoarders
- Feral cat sterilization
- Other: Residents of Pinellas/Pasco counties

Objectives:

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

Animal Services estimates that over 53,000 animals are euthanized every year in the Tampa Bay area because there are not enough homes for them. It is obvious that we must increase the number of sterilizations in order to decrease the number of cats euthanized in the Pinellas/Pasco area.

Existing literature cites two major barriers preventing pet owners from sterilizing their animals, affordability and accessibility. Our program is designed to remove both of these barriers for our target population. Through our "Be Litter Free" program, we will make sterilization services affordable by providing no cost and low cost spay/neuter services for cats belonging to residents of Pinellas and Pasco counties. To be eligible for no cost services residents must receive public assistance (this includes food stamps, SSI disability, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.). Residents identified as hoarders (owning 20+ cats) may also receive no cost services, but they must agree to surrender adoptable cats to the Suncoast Animal League to be eligible. In order to be certain low-income residents can take advantage of our services, we will use the agency van to provide transportation for those who are unable to transport their animals themselves.

Low cost spay/neuter services at a fee of \$30 per cat will be offered to any resident of Pinellas or Pasco county. No income qualifications will be required for these low cost services as our main goal is to get the cats sterilized. However, owners must provide proof of current rabies vaccines for their animal, or agree to pay \$5.00 to have them vaccinated at time of surgery. We believe that the availability of this low cost spay/neuter option and no cost sterilizations with transportation and placement options for owner surrenders (hoarders) will increase sterilizations significantly, particularly among those residents with income or transportation limitations. It is estimated that with funds from the FAF grant, we could perform 1000 low cost surgeries at an average cost to us of \$20 per surgery (\$18 neuter; \$22 spay) during the grant year. By charging \$30 for these low cost surgeries, we will be able to provide a minimum of 500 additional no cost surgeries, totaling 1500 surgeries.

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

Since currently the Suncoast Animal League provides spay/neuter surgeries to only its resident cats, it is estimated that the Florida Animal Fund Grant will increase the number of sterilizations performed by 1500 for the grant fiscal year.

Methods:

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

Clients receiving no cost services must provide proof that they receive public assistance (medicare, medicaid, SSI disability, food stamps, etc.). Those applying for low cost services must

prove proof of residency in Pinellas or Pasco county and current rabies vaccinations. If rabies vaccines are not current, residents can still access low cost surgeries if they are willing to pay \$5.00 to have their pet vaccinated. Hoarders will be identified on a case by case basis.

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

As an advocate for animals in the area for 20 years and a well-known public personality, Rick Chaboudy does regular guest appearances and spots on local television and radio programs. He will use these opportunities in addition to press releases and public service announcements to inform the community about the program. Brochures and posters for special events like the annual Mutt March and Brighten Their Future will contain details about the program and be distributed by volunteers to neighborhood associations, trailer park offices and apartment complex offices. Volunteers will do presentations to local schools, civic organizations, neighborhood associations and low income housing and senior citizens apartment complexes. Students and teachers of The Tarpon Springs High School Veterinary Science program will also participate in community education efforts. The Suncoast Animal League website ([www.suncoastanimalleague.net](http://www.suncoastanimalleague.net)) will include program information and online registration for transportation and surgeries. An insert including program details will be included in each adoption packet for animals adopted from the Suncoast Animal League. Announcements for Tuesday and Thursday "Spay Days" will be included in 20+ local community newspapers weekly.

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

In order to maximize the use of our services by those most in need, we will provide pickup and return services for those residents qualified for no cost services who are unable to transport their cats to the clinic. We will utilize existing and experienced volunteers and the existing agency van (donated) to pick up and transport cats to the veterinarian's office for sterilization on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Animals will be picked up at the owner residence at an appointed time and returned after surgery. Pickups will be scheduled according to resident location (i.e. Pinellas on Tuesdays, Pasco on Thursdays). Those who do not need transportation will bring their animals to the Suncoast Animal League in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day.

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.

Transportation of cats will be done using the Suncoast Animal League air-conditioned van and DART trained volunteers. All cats will be transported in airline carriers. If the owner does not have a carrier available, one will be provided by the Suncoast Animal League. All volunteers are required to sign a Liability Release prior to beginning work at the agency. In addition, owners will be required to sign a Liability Release when their cat is picked up for transport.

Veterinary Services:

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

Dr. Al Paredes, DVM will perform surgeries 2 days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays at his Veterinarian Establishment, Evening Pet Clinic located in Palm Harbor, Florida. Animals will be transported to the clinic by Suncoast Animal League volunteers using the agency van.

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
Evening Pet Clinic (VE3417)	3206 Alt. 19, Palm Harbor, FL	727-785-7200
_____		
_____		
_____		

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	\$ 0-30	\$ 18	\$ 18
Range for Female Cats	\$ 0-30	\$ 22	\$ 22
Range for Male Dogs	\$	\$	\$
Range for Female Dogs	\$	\$	\$

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$
Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$ 0-5
Pain Medication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$

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

Since rabies vaccinations are required by state law, they will be provided as part of the no cost services and paid for separately by The Suncoast Animal League. Those receiving low cost services will be required to provide proof of current rabies vaccine or purchase one for an additional \$5.

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

no

**Other Information:**

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

Because of its geographic location, The Suncoast Animal League is in a unique position to provide services to upper Pinellas and lower Pasco county where there limited low cost spay neuter services available. Since the cost per surgery averages \$20 we will use the FAF funds to provide 1,000 low cost sterilizations for which we will charge the owners \$30 per surgery. The \$10 difference between the actual cost per surgery and the \$30 fee to the owners will be used to pay for another 500 surgeries at NO COST for those individuals receiving public assistance who otherwise could not afford to spay or neuter their pet. In addition, we can provide transportation to those elderly and low-income residents who may not own a car or be able to transport their pet in order to access existing services. Because we are a shelter, we can also offer an adoption alternative to hoarders who may not otherwise be willing to have their cats spayed or neutered.

**Budget:**

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected: cats 1500 dogs 0

Total budget requested: \$ 20000 Average cost/surgery projected: \$ 20

Budget should not exceed \$20,000.

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

Transportation services will be provided using existing van and experienced volunteers. Administrative functions (i.e. appointment setting, screening applicants) will also be performed by existing volunteers and shelter staff. Rabies vaccinations for cats receiving no cost services will be paid for by the Suncoast Animal League. Those receiving low-cost spay/neuter services will be required to provide proof of rabies vaccine for their pet, or pay \$5.00 to have their pet vaccinated at time of the surgery.

**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: 08/02/08    Projected end date: 07/31/09 (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.

The Suncoast Animal League will continue to fund our "Be Litter Free" program through fundraising events like our annual Mutt March in addition to silent auctions, and promotions by area business and community partners, i.e city of Palm Harbor First Friday, City of Safety Harbor First Friday, etc. We will also raise money by providing low-cost vaccines and microchip clinics at the shelter and area pet businesses like Dog Lovers and Muddy Paws. The League, in conjunction with the Evening Pet Clinic will continue to offer low cost spay/neuter services at \$30 per surgery, using a portion of these funds to pay for additional no cost surgeries. We also plan to expand our relationship with the Tarpon Springs High School Veterinary program in the future in order to provide an increased number of no cost spay/neuter surgeries.

**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.

We currently include postcard for Animal Friends License Plate in adoption packets for each animal adopted from the Suncoast Animal league and will continue to do so. In addition, FAF postcards are available and posted in our Critter Corner Shoppe adjoining the shelter. Animal Friends literature is included in all sellable pet baskets and handed out at all special events. The Animal Friends license plate is currently displayed on the Suncoast Animal League van and we will include a picture of the plate on our website with purchase details and pertinent contact information.

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:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 03/31/2008 (MM/DD/YY)

Name: Rick Chaboudy Title: Executive Director, Suncoast Animal League



## 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 #02-0787661 (attach determination letter)
- FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Registration # CH-22270 (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