

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: Volunteer Services for Animals, Inc.

Person Submitting Proposal: Ruth Stirling Title: President

Organization Address: 6017 Pine Ridge Road, #330

City, State, Zip Code: Naples, FL 34119

Website Address: www.volunteerservicesforanimals.com

Phone number: 239 597-4930 Fax Number: 239 261-4768 *51

Cell Number: 239 290-6274 Email Address: Vsarescue@aol.com

Dates of Last Complete Fiscal Year: 1/1/07 to 12/31/07 (MM/DD/YY)

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$32,953

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$38,671

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): 0

Number of Paid Employees: Full-time: 0 Part-time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 10 Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 100

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:

250 cats and 0 dogs were admitted

224 cats and 0 dogs were adopted

743 cats and 157 dogs were sterilized

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized

Describe your animal programs:

Volunteer Services for Animals, Inc. (VSA) has two programs. Our "Fix Your Pet" program subsidizes spay and neuter surgeries for low-income pet owners (dogs and cats) and those who trap free-roaming cats and kittens. VSA has negotiated reduced-fee arrangements with 15 veterinary clinics in Collier County. Pet owners qualified under the VSA program and feral cat trappers are provided certificates which they may use at any of the participating veterinary clinics. The out-of-pocket cost is \$30 per surgery. VSA funds rabies shots for feral cats. VSA also has a rescue, foster and adoption program for abandoned and surrendered kittens and cats. After being spayed or neutered and having received tests and vaccinations, rescued kittens and cats are adopted to pre-screened, permanent homes at a PetSmart adoption center. VSA is a PetSmart partner.

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? 0 %

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption? N/A

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

N/A

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:

VSA is a not-for-profit Florida corporation founded in 1982. It started its "Fix Your Pet" low-cost spay and neuter program in 1997. This program been in continuous operation since then. VSA has provided spay and neuter vouchers to trappers of free-roaming cats and kittens since its inception. However, the program is limited due to funding. The "Spay a Stray" program will be administered in conjunction with VSA "Fix Your Pet," program, but focus on reaching out to trappers of stray cats. The VSA Board of Directors will provide oversight of this program. Directors are selected based upon their experience with animals and dedication to animal issues. The proposed "Spay a Stray" program will be administered by three volunteers, and coordinated by a VSA officer. They each are long-time VSA members and are experienced and dedicated to animal issues. They have been trained in VSA voucher program criteria, and are knowledgeable about the importance of sterilization of animals, especially free-roaming cats. Upon approval of this grant, this VSA officer overseeing the program and volunteers will be provided training as to specifics of the program and grant requirements. The Board of Directors will monitor the program activities at its regular board meetings.

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

Besides our program (VSA), there are three other spay/neuter programs in Collier County. One offers assistance to the general public by providing access to its discounted rate with participating veterinarians. However, this organization's main focus is animal rescue and the availability of the spay/neuter certificates is not widely publicized. Two other organizations spay or neuter feral cats as an element of their feral cat colony management program. Both of those organizations, Animal Compassion Project, Inc., For the Love of Cats Inc., both non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, are collaborating with VSA in this application.

VSA's program is the only effort in Collier County which focuses both on owned and feral cats and offers assistance to the general public. However, the community problem, especially with regard to feral cats versus owned cats, far outweighs the funding resources. VSA, probably the primary source for feral cat sterilization vouchers in Collier County, funded 126 feral surgeries in 2007. Because of VSA's current cost-share requirement, feral cat trappers curtailed activities because of inadequate funding in 2007 (i.e. the \$30 cost-share requirement). Both collaborators in this grant also curtailed their spay and neuter activities in 2007 because of inadequate funding. Between the independent trappers and the collaborators with this grant, about 270 feral cats were spayed or neutered in 2007. There probably were other smaller-scale individual spay and neuter efforts for feral cats who self-fund. However, the effort, limited by funding, is significantly inadequate compared the growing feral cat population in Collier County. Utilizing the feral-cat population formula provided in this grant application, Collier County has an estimated feral cat population of over 52,400, of which about 27,000 are reproductive females. Even with utilization of the higher morality rate for feral kittens, the net offspring from those reproductive females will be approximately 970,000 within five years without intervention. There are interventions in Collier County by private organizations but the exponential increase in feral cats dwarfs the effort due to funding. Each of the afore-mentioned individuals and organizations have capacity to expand their efforts with existing personnel all of whom are volunteers.

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.

As mentioned previously, VSA has an on-going a sterilization program with the following 2007 funding and activity levels:

	Dogs	Number	Cats	Number
Spays	\$5,925	94	\$9,680	323
Neuters	\$2,835	63	0	420

There is no VSA funding provided for cat neuters. The surgery cost-share paid by the voucher recipient, \$30, pays the entire surgery cost. For feral cat trappers, this \$30 cost-share limits their activities. Each reports that they had the capacity to do more spays and neuters in 2007 had funding been available. VSA will undertake fully funding the current-level of feral cat spays and neuters (\$3,780). However, VSA funding for the full capacity of the afore-mentioned trappers and collaborative organizations, 280 additional feral cats, is inadequate.

VSA completely depends upon donations for funding of its sterilization program. VSA will make a diligent effort to raise the additional \$3,780 to fully fund spays and neuters for ferals and to develop additional fund raising activities for funding the additional feral cat sterilizations in years following the grant year.

GRANT PROPOSAL DETAILS

Title of Proposal: Spay a Stray

Total Amount of Funding Requested: \$ 13,160 Check payable to: Volunteers Services For Animals, 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
Animal Comprassion Project, Inc.	___7620 Rookery Lane, Naples, FL 34120	_____	Collaborator
_____	_____	_____	_____
For the Love of Cats, Inc.	___511 Antilles Court ___Marco Island, FL 34145	_____	Collaborator
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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.): Collier County, Florida

Total human population in target area: 314649 (information available at www.census.gov)

Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: 9 (www.census.gov)

Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): 95348

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): 78662

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): 52441

Number of cats 3443 and dogs 3586 admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)

Number of cats 2104 and dogs 1529 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.

N/A

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?
- 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)?

The objective to increase the spaying and neutering of feral cats by 300.

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

This program provides funding for the additional capacity of existing trappers and organizations in Collier County.

Methods:

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

The cat or kitten must be free-roaming.

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

Utilization of the grant funding has been pre-arranged with two established independent trappers with whom VSA already has a working relationship and two collaborating organizations which manage feral cat colonies. VSA will not exclude others desiring vouchers for feral cat sterilizations and will distribute information to our participating veterinarians, especially among those who will spay or neuter feral cats and kittens. We will also place notices in our neighborhood newspapers and publicize the program on our web site.

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

Each of the trappers and collaborators have transportation. One collaborating agency has bi-lingual capacity (Spanish) for any of the other trappers who might have difficulty communicating at sites where trapping needs to be done and individuals such as business owners are non-English speaking. From a literacy perspective, we have volunteer staff available each Saturday where vouchers are obtained to explain the program to those who might not understand our written information.

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

Veterinary Services:

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

We have 15 veterinary clinics as participants in our spay and neuter program. Several already are performing surgeries on feral cats and kittens.

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).

Name	Address	Phone	
Pinegate Veterinary Center	4075 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34119	239 352-3369	VE2852
Bayridge Vet Center	7700 Trail Blvd., Naples, FL 34108	239 596-1221	VE3265
Big Cypress Animal Hosp.	11363 Tamiami Trail E., Naples, FL 34113	239 774-2233	VE1703
Cat Care Clinic	4735 Santa Barbara Blvd., Naples, FL 34104	239 643-4090	VE3535
East Side Animal Clinic	4493 Tamiami Trail E., Naples, FL 34112	239 774-6400	VE3183
Harborside Animal Clinic	3184 Davis Blvd., Naples, FL 34104	239 774-3701	VE2994
Mobile Pet Vet	P.O. Box 1464, Naples, FL 34106	239 777-7387	VE3259
Town & Country Vet Hosp.	1828 Santa Barbara Blvd., Naples, FL 34116	239 353-5060	VE3611
All Creatures Animal Hosp.	11212 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34110	239 593-1232	In Process
Animallife Vet Center	2171 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34110	239 513-1777	VE2423
Affordable Pet Care	3875 Tamimai Trail East, Naples, FL 34112	239 774- 3555	VE1946
Brown Vet Clinic	5573 Golden Gate Pkwy., Naples, FL 34116	239 455-8166	VM3277
Crossroad Vet Clinic	5987 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34119	239 455-3335	VE3484
Medicat Feline Hospital	2171 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34110	239 594-7771	VE2423
Mission Hills Vet Center	7550 Mission Hills Dr., Naples, FL 34119	239 435-1222	VE3479

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	\$ 30
Range for Female Cats	\$ 0	\$ 60	\$ 60
Range for Male Dogs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Range for Female Dogs	\$ 0	\$	\$ 0

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$ 12
Pain Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Parasite Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 20
Testing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 40
Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Ear tipping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$

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

VSA's agreement with the veterinary clinics is that spays, neuters and ear tipping will be provided but a rabies shot will be required which will be the client's responsibility. The proposed program for this grant will only pay for the spay, neuter and ear tipping.

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

This is a voucher program. The fee to the veterinarian will be paid only after completion of the surgery. Compliance is assured by the requirement that the veterinary clinic must submit the VSA original voucher, signed and dated by the clinic, with an invoice. No copies of a voucher will be accepted.

Other Information:

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

VSA is well-established and well-known in Collier County, having first started providing services to animals in 1982. This program will achieve its goals for three reasons: First, VSA has an established relationship with feral-cat trappers and the two collaborating organizations with current needs exceeding existing funding. Secondly, VSA already has an on-going spay and neuter program. It is well-known by Collier County veterinarians, Collier County Domestic Animal Services and other animal assistance agencies. A notice by VSA will provide ample referrals to meet the goals of this program.

Budget:

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected: cats 280 dogs 0

Total budget requested: \$ 13160 Average cost/surgery projected: \$ 47

Budget should not exceed \$20,000.

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

All expenses for this spay and neuter program will be paid by the grant.

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: 9/01/2008 Projected end date: 8/31/2009 (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.

VSA has on-going fund raising activities. Both the scope and number of fund raising activities will be increased in 2008 and thereafter to provide funding for this program when the grant funding is exhausted.

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.

There will be four methods we will use to promotion the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate: First, we will urge people to purchase the plate on the voucher itself. Secondly, we will consistently promote the purchase of the license plate in our newsletter which is sent to our members and donors. Third, we will promote the license plate at our adoption location, PetSmart, as well on our adoption documents. Fourth, we will provide a link to the Animal Friends web site where the license plate may be purchased.

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: 03/30/2009 (MM/DD/YY)

Name: Ruth Stirling Title: President

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 #59-2197365 (attach determination letter)
- FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Registration # CH-5661 (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.

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