

Grant ID: 88

Title of Proposal: Animal Network Community Spay/Neuter Fund

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$20,550.00

Check Payable To: Animal Network, Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Animal Network, Inc.

Person Submitting Proposal: Joanne Sampson

Organization Business Address: 1201 42nd St W

State: Florida

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-753-0104

Cell: 941-779-8078

Website Address: www.animalntetworkinc.com

Position: Secretary, Board of Directors

City: Bradenton

Zip: 34205

Fax:

Email Address: kenpansr@yahoo.com

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/08 **End:** 12/31/08

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$73,750.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$73,400.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 0

Number of Active Volunteers: 42

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 315.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Website

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

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Diane Pendleton	Board Member	941-761-1683	Retired College Editor	XDianEP@aol.com
Joanne Sampson	Secretary	941-753-0104	Retired Shelter Director	kenpansr@yahoo.com
Laurie Crawford	President	941-746-3611	Hair Stylist	mcdogladly@msn.com
MK Means	Board Member	941-920-5165	Editor - Newspaper	mkm0704@yahoo.com
Rita Boyer	Board Member	941-747-6089	Respiratory Therapist	
Sue Campbell	Board Member	941-795-6201	VP Human Resources	jcampbell01@comcast.net
Sue Kolze	Vice President	941-729-8631	Retired - Sales	ellentonsu@aol.com
Wendy Crawford	Treasurer	941-776-2094	Asst VP - Banking	wendy.crawford@micorp.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

430 cats and 8 dogs were admitted.

506 cats and 8 dogs were adopted.

1 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

780 cats and 8 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

Animal Network was founded in 1999 as Manatee Citizens for Off-Leash Areas. Our goal was to establish through the county, off-leash dog parks. We have since expanded our efforts to helping our entire animal community, thus the name change. Animal Network has grown into an organization which partners with County and City government, local animal shelters and rescue organizations to improve the lives of animals in Manatee County. We have an adoption program, a foster program; a low cost/ free spay neuter program, and a TNR program. Our primary goal is to eliminate euthanasia of adoptable cats and dogs in Manatee County by increasing the number of spay/neuters of free-roaming and feral cats and pit bulls and pit bull mixes. We have done an excellent job of utilizing our all volunteer force by letting them do what they do best. We have a feral cat trapping team. Since trapping often yields neonatal and young kittens, we have a foster team including a bottle baby team that fosters and cares for kittens, adult cat and dog teams and lastly an adoption team. We are Adoption Partners with PetSmart and house some of our cats in their Luv-a-Pet Adoption Center. Our adoption team is at PetSmart every Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. All of our animals are tested, vaccinated, sterilized and micro chipped prior to adoption. Board members primarily handle administrative and marketing duties, but also cross-over as fosters when needed. Our group has been working in this capacity for 10 years. We work cooperatively with our local county Manatee County Animal Services, Bishop SPCA, Humane Society of Manatee County, and rescue groups. We formed a Coalition group (Manatee Animal Coalition), comprised of area shelters and rescue groups, where we meet quarterly to discuss issues and attempt to eliminate duplicity and share resources. The Coalition goal is to become a no-kill county within 5 years.

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

Yes

If not all, what percentage of animals are 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.

Our county has seen a significant reduction (18%) in euthanasia in the past 10 years, despite our population growth of nearly 21%. But we feel any euthanasia of adoptable animals is unacceptable. Our primary problem areas in Manatee County are free-roaming and feral cats and pit bulls and pit bull mixes. In 2008, there were 2,625 cats euthanized (almost all free-roaming and feral cats) and 1546 dogs (mostly pit bulls and pit bull mixes). These numbers are too high and therefore are our target population. We have operated our TNR program and our adoption program for several years with much success. In 2008, we did 506 adoptions. We

place all of our adoptable animals on Petfinder.com. We have aided the community on a case-by-case basis with pit bull and other breeds with low-cost and free spay/neuter surgeries. But we recognize that in order to reduce the number of pit bulls and pit mixes euthanized we need to actively target this group. In April 2008 the Humane Society of Manatee County opened a Humane Alliance Model Low Cost S/N Clinic. If we are awarded this grant, we will partner with them to spay/neuter pit bulls and pit mixes. We will ask the owners of pit bulls to pay \$10 for the surgery if they cannot afford the full \$55 (males) -\$65(females). Animal Network will pay the remaining \$45 (males)-\$55 (females) per surgery. If awarded, this grant will help us reach our goal of 200 additional surgeries for pit bulls and additional 300 surgeries for feral and free-roaming cats.

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?

Manatee County has a free spay/neuter program for county residents who income qualify. The program is done on the ARC (Animal Rescue Coalition) Mobile Spay/Neuter Bus. However, the demand is so high that many people who qualify miss the proverbial bus. There is an 8-10 week waiting period and unfortunately, many can't wait that long, since they wait until their pets are in heat before acting and they are unwilling to have their pregnant animals spayed. We hope to fill that gap by catching these people before the problem escalates. Then, there are the "working poor" or underemployed whose income does not meet the eligibility guidelines for the free service, but have no extra income for their pets' surgery. If this grant is awarded, Animal Network will ask these owners to pay \$10 towards the surgery and Animal Network will pay the remainder. However, no one will be turned away because of lack of funds. The Humane Society of Manatee County has opened a Humane Alliance Low Cost S/N Clinic. We will partner with them to do the pit bull spays and neuters. However, the cost for cat spays and neuters is higher at the Humane Society Clinic than at our private veterinarian's office (Beach Veterinary – Dr Luke Berglund) who has agreed to do our surgeries and office visits at a discounted fee, so we will have our cat surgeries done at Beach Veterinary as we have for two years. The Humane Society of Manatee County has a free feral cat (TNR) program only once a month. We get as many slots as possible, but generally are only able to do 12-15 cats per month. In 2008, we did 200 TNR's and 553 low-cost spays and neuters through participating veterinarians. If awarded this grant, we will be able to increase that to 1,050 cats and begin our new initiative, and target 200 surgeries for pit bulls, utilizing the Humane Society of Manatee County Low-Cost S/N Clinic as well as participating veterinarians. For the past 13 years, there has been a low-cost certificate program administered by the Humane Society of Manatee County with participating veterinarians. Since they have opened their own S/N Clinic, the Humane Society has discontinued this program. However, some of these vets plan to continue to offer low-cost surgeries to the public. We hope to participate with them after reviewing their price structure. In 2008, Animal Network has received grants from PetSmart Charities for feral cat program of \$6,200, which has been spent. We were able to do 200 TNR surgeries with this grant. We also did 585 low cost spay/neuters through participating vets. Funds used for these surgeries were from \$3,100 in our 2008 budget and from adoption fees. Our adoptions fees cover the cost of spay/neuter surgery, vaccines, testing, and microchips. Any extraordinary medical expenses are funded through donations. The Board has decided that we will divert our education budget to the spay/neuter initiative, if needed, next year. We are adding the pit bull S/N program this year and do not have that budgeted this year. We are depending on this grant to begin this year. Otherwise, we will wait until next year when we can divert some of our funds currently used for education, rescue and shelter support. Included in these budget items, is the purchase of Advantage, microchips and antibiotics for the animals at Manatee County Animal Services, since these items are not in their budget are badly needed by the animals.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Manatee County, Florida
Total human population in target area:	315,766
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	32,732 - 10.37%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	95687
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	78942
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	52628
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3507
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3220
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2625
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1481

<p>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. I feel the number of feral cats in our county may be higher than the formula shows, but cannot prove it.</p>
<p>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: -Pit bull owners who breed their dogs or allow them to breed indiscriminately. -Feral and free-roaming cats – many strays abandoned by owners.</p>
<p>What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area and in what ways are these resources currently insufficient to meet community needs? The free spay/neuter program doesn't do feral cats and is very limited on the number of large dogs they can accommodate on the bus. There is such a high demand; there is an 8-10 week wait to get an appointment. In these economic times, there is an even higher demand for the free program, and it cannot handle all those who are eligible for the program. The low-cost spay/neuter clinic at the Humane Society is great for large dogs and for the public in general. However, as a rescue group, trying to do as many spay/neuters as possible for the least amount of money, it just doesn't work for our cat surgeries. We will partner with them to do our pit bull surgeries, however, if the grant is awarded. Participating vets (those that offer low-cost spay/neuter) are in the process of revamping their own programs since the Humane Society discontinued their voucher program. We hope to work with them, once we review their prices.</p>
<p>Florida Animal Friend is highly supportive of proposals that are focused on animal populations that are identified as substantial sources of dog or cat overpopulation rather than being diluted over too broad of a geographic area or diverse animal populations. Describe the specific target animal population of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feral cats <input type="checkbox"/> Special spay/neuter event <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Objectives

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

-Spay/neuter of 300 additional feral & free-roaming cats -Spay/neuter of 200 pit bulls and pit bull mixes

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

Funding is the only barrier for spay/neuter of feral/free-roaming cats. With the additional funds, we can do 300 additional surgeries. There are no programs currently in Manatee County that targets spay/neuters of pit bulls and pit bull mixes. Coupled with an aggressive marketing campaign, 200 pit bulls will be sterilized with this grant. This grant will allow us to kick off this initiative and allow us to seek other funding sources in the years to come.

Methods

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

Since feral and free-roaming cats are not owned, there are no criteria to be met by owners. Only cats in Manatee County will be targeted this year and known cat colony groups will be targeted until all members of that colony have been sterilized. The criteria for the pit bull program will be the dogs must be pit bulls or strong pit mixes (have obvious traits of pit bulls). All other dogs will be referred to the free or low- cost programs.

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience.

We already receive hundreds of calls requesting help with feral and free-roaming cats. The only barrier that limits the amount of help we can provide is funding. Pit bull program – we will create flyers, posters and brochures in English and in Spanish and distribute to

low-income areas. We will receive referrals from the Humane Society of Manatee County Clinic and from participating veterinarians' offices. We will use press releases and our contacts with local media to get the word out to the public.

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

Feral cats and free-roaming cats will be transported to the S/N facility by trappers and/or caregivers. All have had training on how to handle feral cats and cats will only be transported in covered humane traps. Dog owners will provide their own transportation of pit bulls to the S/N facility. We will target area flea markets to distribute literature in English and Spanish. This is a favorite spot of low-income families. As an added incentive, Animal Network will offer to pay for Rabies and Distemper vaccines if owners will agree to spay or neuter their pit bull. Animal Network has these funds budgeted for 2009 as related spay/neuter expenses. In the past, we have found this to be a good incentive to getting hesitant owners to agree to spay or neuter their animals.

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.

Cats will be transported by volunteers. All volunteer trappers have several years of experience and have been well trained in handling or more appropriately, not handling feral cats. They use only approved humane traps and keep them covered at all times. The cats are trapped, covered by a sheet or towel (depending on the weather), transported in the volunteer's vehicles (most have vans or SUVs) to the S/N facility in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. They hold the cats in covered traps in a protected area until the following morning when the cat is fully recovered. The cats are then released where they were trapped. Food and water is left at the site for them. Caretakers agree to feed and care for the cats. Animal Network is covered by General Liability Insurance.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have worked with Dr Luke Berglund at Beach Veterinary Clinic for two years. He has agreed to do our cat surgeries (both adopted and feral/free-roaming) for \$32 for females and \$25 for males. We have several other veterinarians as well as the Humane Society of Manatee County Spay/Neuter Clinic that we can utilize if needed that will do the surgeries at a reduced cost, but none are as inexpensive than Dr Berglund.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Animal Medical Center	3102 Cortez Road	Bradenton	Florida	34205	941-753-6709	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beach Veterinary Clinic	4404 124th St Ct W	Bradenton, FL	Florida	34210	941-792-2838	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Humane Society of Manatee County S/N Clinic	2515 14th St W	Bradenton	FL	34205	941-747-8808	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kindness Animal Hospital	4525 26th St W	Bradenton	Florida	34205	941-753-8948	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fee Range

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	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>

Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$10.00	\$45.00	\$55.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$10.00	\$55.00	\$65.00

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked:

Required Yes, Fee to client No

	Required, Optional, or Not Offered			Fee to Client?	
Examination	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional	<input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Rabbies Vaccination if Due	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Pain Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Licensing	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Ear tipping	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes

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

Owners can choose optional vaccines or testing, or pain medications, but will deal directly with the S/N facility. Animal Network will be responsible for the cost of rabies vaccines and/or ear tips for feral cats, since there are no owners. Pit bull owners are responsible for any additional charges except for rabies vaccines and distemper vaccines will be paid for by Animal Network.

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.

Animal Network has accounts with all participating veterinarians and with the Humane Society of Manatee County Spay/Neuter Clinic. Animal Network will be billed monthly for all spays and neuters performed in the previous month.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 300 Dogs: 200

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$20,550.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$42.00

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

Animal Network has budgeted \$2,400 for rabies vaccines and ear tips for cats at \$8.00 per cat. and \$3,200 for rabies and distemper vaccines for pit bulls at \$16.00 per dogs.

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, 2009.

Projected start date: 08/15/09/ **Projected end date:** 08/15/09

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.

Animal Network received a \$6,200 feral cat grant for 2008 which has been fully utilized. Although Animal Network will seek other grants, and will continue to seek donations, we are committed to this project and will divert funds used for other purposes which, although worthy, are not contributing directly to the reduction of euthanasia of adoptable animals in Manatee County. These programs include the purchase of flea prevention, microchips and antibiotics for animals at Manatee County Animal Services (Animal Control). The antibiotics are for cats with upper respiratory that will either be placed in Animal Services Adoption Program or transferred to Animal Network to be placed in our Adoption Program. Since this funding does help to reduce cats that will be euthanized if very ill, and therefore indirectly reduce euthanasia, these will be the last funds to be diverted. We will, however, divert funds used for Education in order to continue our Animal Network Community Spay/Neuter Fund.

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 will use press releases, our newsletter and web site to announce our grant, if awarded, and promote the sale of license plates. We will link our site to the Florida Animal Friend site to promote the sale of license plates. All of our Board members will be strongly encouraged to buy the plate upon renewal of their tags. We will also obtain, if available, literature regarding the license plate to distribute to the public.