

Grant ID: 40

Title of Proposal: Operation Feral Fix (OFF)

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$7,200.00

Check Payable To: Feline Folks, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Feline Folks, Inc.

Person Submitting Proposal: Judy Stimson

Organization Business Address: P.O. Box 6294

State: FL

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 813-944-7651

Cell:

Website Address: <http://www.FelineFolks.org>

Position: Secretary / Treasurer

City: Sun City Center

Zip: 33571-6294

Fax:

Email Address: Info@FelineFolks.org

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$24,100.42

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$16,180.58

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 30

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 240.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Applied in 2008

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
Carol Gault	Director	813-944-7651	Retired Travel Agency Owner	
Dick Nabak	President	813-944-7651	Dairy Commodities Manager	
Judy Stimson	Secretary / Treasurer	813-944-7651	Retired Business Executive	
Mike Bundas	Director	813-944-7651	Retired Military & USPS	
Norm Gault	Director	813-944-7651	Retired U.S. Geographer	
Rita Bundas	Director	813-944-7651	Retired U.S. Postal Service	
Sharron Nabak	Director	813-944-7651	Retired Domestic Caregiver	
Susan Miotke	Vice President	813-944-7651	Retired Business Executive	

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

169 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

127 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

17 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

259 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

In addition to TNR, we pull tame (lost / stray) cats and feral kittens from free-roaming cat colonies for socialization and adoption.

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?

100% are Sterilized

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

100% are Sterilized

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.

Feline Folks incorporated as a non-profit in 2007. In Sept. 2008 we started monthly Operation Feral Fix (OFF) for free-roaming cats in the South Shore Area of Hillsborough Co. We have successfully conducted this program every month since it started, done over 120 cats, and the schedule is full every month. OFF Program Manager is a co-founder, has multiple business degrees, is a retired Executive, and highly organized. We have a contract in place for the surgery and Veterinarian, and have additional non-medical 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?

In late-2007 and early-2008 we obtained funding for humane cat traps, set up 4 Trap Depots, negotiated OFF contracts, promoted OFF, and had sufficient funds to start monthly OFF in Sept. 2008. Now that we have completed an entire fiscal year and proven there is demand and we can successfully execute this program, we need funding for another 12 months of OFF.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Hillsborough County
Total human population in target area:	1,174,727
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	11.6
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	355978

Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	293682
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	195788
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	18,432
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	11,991
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	16,178
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	6,368
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We serve the South Shore Area of Hillsborough Co., which includes cities like Riverview that historically contribute highly to the Animal Services cat intake. Feline Folks' OFF is the one and only program addressing free-roaming cats in this geography.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
In 2007 an ASPCA: Mission Orange funded study estimated the free-roaming cats in Hillsborough Co. as over 200,000. They cited the majority of these cats contribute to the overpopulation and the problem could not be solved without adequately addressing these cats. Other contributors are unfixed pet cats that are let roam free or are abandoned (an increasing problem in this economy).	
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?	
Operation Feral Fix (OFF), the program we started in Sept. 2008, is the ONLY program in this geographic area. Two other programs are run in Tampa, which is one hour north of our geography.	
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:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feral cats <input checked="" 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)?

Our objective is to fund OFF for 12 months and TNR 240 cats (20-cat average), thereby humanely reducing the free-roaming cat population in the South Shore Area of Hillsborough Co. Further, this should reduce Animal Services' cat intakes and euthanizations that have averaged 91.8% annually for the last 8 years.

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

Prior to Feline Folks' OFF, baseline in this geography was zero. Program, started in Sept. 2008, has TNR'ed more than 120 cats to date. Start-up funding is running out. There is high demand for OFF services, and OFF schedule is full every month.

Methods

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

Any free-roaming cat that lives in the South Shore Area of Hillsborough Co. is eligible for the program. We do not screen by income, but many of our clients volunteer they are low-income (e.g., "I'm on a fixed income ...", "I feel sorry for the cats but cannot afford much ...").

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

When we kicked off the program in Sept. 2008 we advertised for 2 weeks per month prior to OFF. We only had to do this for 2 months (9/4, 9/11, 10/2, 10/9). Through repeat customers, word-of-mouth, promotion during our educational programs, free event listings in newspaper, and in-print and online newspaper articles, schedule has been full every month since. It is a VERY in-demand program.

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

These are community cats that require community involvement. We strongly encourage individual responsibility, loan humane cat traps from 4 convenient Trap Depots, train people, provide public educational programs at the library, etc. and have volunteers to assist those truly unable (e.g., disabled, live alone, don't drive, no relatives, etc.). This approach has worked.

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.

Client is responsible except in rare cases. In those cases, our volunteers utilize their own vehicles and homes to transport and care for animals until they can be returned under TNR process. Everybody (clients and volunteers) receive hands-on training at our educational programs and when they borrow a trap. They also receive written Trapping Guidelines. Trap Loan form includes liability release, which client must sign to receive traps.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have a contract with a no-kill animal shelter to utilize their surgery, which includes contract Veterinarian services that we arrange. Fee schedule is \$40 per cat to be split between Shelter and Vet on a per-cat rate schedule with a minimum throughput.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Hal E. Ott, DVM	715 S. Tamiami Trail	Ruskin	FL	33570-4749	813-645-6411	<input checked="" 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	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$40.00
Range for Female Cats	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$40.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required	<input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional	<input 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:

Everything revolves around what is required to make TNR work. While cat is unconscious, ad-hoc treatment is provided at no cost (e.g., stitch up a wound). It is a flat fee schedule per cat no matter what is required for TNR.

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

This is not a voucher program. We are a County-approved S/N program (Clinic #234) and accept low-income County Vouchers, but they are not required.

Other Information

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

Feedback you provided to us on our 2008 application was to conduct a pilot program. We have successfully started and demonstrated the feasibility of the Operation Feral Fix (OFF) program over a 7-month period (Sept. 2008 - March 2009), with concrete plans to continue.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 240 **Dogs:** 0

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$7,200.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$30.00

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

20 cat average x 12 OFFs x \$30 = \$7,200. Other costs (e.g., office and cleaning supplies, etc.) are paid for out of donations.

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:** 07/17/10

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.

In addition to our educational programs and tabling events (e.g., Arts Festival, No More Homeless Pets Adoption Expos, etc.), we conduct an annual Cat's Meow Auction, and solicit donations through our web site, Year-at-a-Glance newsletter, and at OFF. Past fundraisers have included selling T-shirts and paw pads, recycling and a cat photo contest that resulted in a 2009 calendar. In

addition, we have targeted PetSmart Charities and Petco Foundation for other funding grants.

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 actively promote the plate: (1) a dedicated presentation page in our public educational program presentations, (2) a large (12" x 24") magnetic sign that goes on the entry door to the OFF clinic, and (3) a link on our web site. We also discuss at Board meetings, and several Directors (including the OFF Program Manager) have personal vehicle plates.