

Grant ID: 73

Title of Proposal: Spay/Neuter Services for Needy Residents of Sumter County

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$10,000.00

Check Payable To: Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter Co., Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter Co., Inc	Website Address: www.hsspca.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Mary Chiles	Position: Treasurer
Organization Business Address: Box 67	City: Lake Panasoffkee
State: Florida	Zip: 33538
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-205-8221	Fax: 352-793-9119
Cell:	Email Address: maryhchiles@comcast.net

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$152,957.01

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$118,371.83

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 1

Number of Active Volunteers: 40

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 150.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? From your website.

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

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
Claudia Labbe	Director	352-817-3995	retired	campclaudia@atlantic.net
Judith Hogan	Director	352-568-0045	retired	jthtimestwo@yahoo.com
Linda Graves	Director/Secretary	352-793-2245	business owner	lindapoochie@aol.com
Mary Chiles	Director/Treasurer	352-205-8221	retired	maryhchiles@comcast.net
Sheri Evans	Director/cruelty investigator	352-303-3211	cattle farmer	sumterdart@sum.net
Trish Cheston	Chairman	352-568-8663	physician assistant	neverenufhorses@yahoo.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

129 cats and 190 dogs were admitted.

15 cats and 47 dogs were adopted.

81 cats and 16 dogs were euthanized.

15 cats and 47 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

"Big Fix" one-day spay/neuter events and spay/neuter vouchers free to needy residents of Sumter County. "Kibbles on Wheels" provides free pet food to needy residents. Working with local law enforcement on animal cruelty and hoarding cases. Rescuing, fostering and finding good permanent homes for rescued animals. We also provide disaster assistance through our DART volunteers. The numbers above show HIGH euthanization rates due to the Coleman hoarding case where all cats had to be euthanized due to a communicable respiratory disease. The shortfall between admissions for dogs and adoptions is because we transferred many dogs to breed rescues and larger dogs to tampa Bay SPCA because they have a better chance of adoption there. Sterilizations are only our adoptable dogs and cats. Our spay/neuter event sterilizations and vouchers sterilizations are included below.

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:

All dogs, cats and stallions that go into our fostering program will be sterilized prior to 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 project leader (and cruelty investigator), Sheri B. Evans, is certified by the Florida Animal Control Association and the University of Missouri as an Animal Cruelty Investigator. She is also Sumter County's Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART) coordinator and a former manager of the Orlando Humane Society/SPCA Shelter. Sheri is frequently called upon by local law enforcement as the county's only full-time cruelty investigator. She, too, is a volunteer and unpaid either by our society or the county government. She is a former chairman of this organization and is on our Board of Directors. Ms Evans directed Sumter County's DART (which includes many volunteers from our organization) in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina, in Punta Gorda following the 2005 hurricanes and in "The Villages of Sumter County" following the 2007 Groundhog Day tornado.

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?

Our recent S/N events and vouchers are paid for through grants from the Elinor Patterson Baker Foundation (\$2500.00 in 2008 and \$2000.00 for 2009), the Bernice Barbour Foundation (\$1000.00 for 2009), the DJT Foundation (\$2560.00) in 2008 and a gift of \$3000.00 from two local members for 2009. We have held 3 Big Fix spay/neuter events since Jan 2008 with the help of several local vets and have sterilized 100 dogs and cats at these events. We have also provided vouchers for 58 dog/cat sterilizations at the local non-profit Cares Center. Our bills are all timely and we have a group of vets ready and happy to continue to work with us in the endeavor.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Sumter County
Total human population in target area:	74,721
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	12.9%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	22643
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	18681
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	12454
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
<p>The poverty rate is an estimate for 2007. An increase in unemployment in this area, we believe, has increased the poverty level population. We have seen an increase in abandoned and neglected animals, particularly equines. We are receiving many more calls to obtain free pet food through "Kibbles on Wheels". We now receive calls every day from people looking for help with vet bills or food for horses. In addition, we believe that there are more pet dogs and cats and feral cats. Sumter County has a large retired and elderly population with a higher percentage of pet ownership. We have many people living in trailer and RV parks which attract feral cats.</p>	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
<p>Lack of education--people are fearful that S/N will make their pets fat and lazy. People are afraid that they can't afford the vet. People want "just one litter" from a favorite pet. People just don't care.</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?	
<p>There are several private practise vets in Sumter County, most in the well-developed northern end of our county. The southern end is much more rural and not as well-served. There are private practise vets in Bushnell and the low-cost spay/neuter clinic, The Cares Center. Many people in Sumter tend to isolate themselves in their own small local area and are unfamiliar with other areas of the county. They will not go to the northern end of the county for veterinary work because that area has a reputation of being very expensive. There is little public transportation and many residents rely on others to give them rides.</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><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Feral cats</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special spay/neuter event</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	

Objectives

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

We plan for at least 3 one-day S/N events between November 2009 and April 2010. These mobile clinic events can be held only during cooler months. Vouchers would be distributed as needed to cat and dog owners during the year. Requirements for mobile clinic events and vouchers would be senior citizen, low-income or disabled. We would hope to provide S/N services for 200 dogs and cats during the period covered by the grant.

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

200 would be 30% more than what we have been able to do in 15 months.

Methods

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

Receipt of state, local or federal assistance or participation in our "Kibbles on Wheels" program (seniors, disabled individuals that are unable to provide food for their own pets).

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

We would advertise it on our website and provide a press release to local news media--The Villages Daily Sun, Sumter Times. However, although we will advertise in the local media, we have found that placing flyers at local groceries, gas stations and community centers such as local volunteer fire stations are more effective than using the local media. Word of mouth is especially useful. Cashiers at local groceries, the volunteer firemen and our own volunteers in the community were especially helpful in spreading the word about our first "Big Fixes". Most participants have since been referred to us by friends in the community. We have a waiting list of 50 dogs and cats for our next 3-vet "Big Fix" on April 25.

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

Transportation problems are overcome by our use of the mobile clinic--taking the vet to the pet. Literacy and cultural barriers are reduced by working with community leaders in the targeted areas. Educational materials promoting animal care and the "Kibbles on Wheels" program will be available at all events.

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--the use of a mobile clinic and community-centered locations for our spay/neuter events means that we are close to the owners' homes. On-site, our DART volunteers move the pets from the registration area to the DART trailer which is certified by HSUS and outfitted as a mobile kennel. Pets are kept separated in individual crates and then are moved as needed to the mobile clinic for the procedure by the vet techs. After-care is provided by DART volunteers who are also vet techs.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have hand-shake agreements with several vets from our area: Dr Angel Smith, Healthy Pet-Mobile Vet; Dr Rebecca Fratello, House Calls-Mobile Vet; and Dr Shannon Kennedy. Dr Kennedy is our emergency on-call vet for all of our foster animals. In addition we have agreements with The Cares Center, a non-profit spay/neuter clinic in Lake Panasoffkee (south county) and Buffalo Ridge Animal Hospital in The Villages (Northern county) to provide services to our voucher clients. BRAH has agreed to the same price structure as The Cares Center. Cares Center and BRAH are open to the public. Voucher holders will call for an appointment, same as other clients. Cares and BRAH will bill us at Cares Center's non-profit rates. On April 25, 2009, Drs Smith, Kennedy and Fratello will participate in our latest "Big Fix" in Bushnell. We have 50 dogs and cats scheduled for that day.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Dr Shannon Kennedy	10304 SE 172nd Lane	Summerfield	FL	34491	352-789-0195	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Buffalo Ridge Animal Hospital	748 Village Campus Circle	The Villages	FL	32162	352-750-4711	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr Angel Smith	3661 NE 36 Ave	Ocala	FL	34479	352-470-9537	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr Rebecca Fratello	4747 SW 60th Ave	Ocala	FL	34474	352-815-0404	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Cares Center	735 E CR 470	Lake Panasoffkee	FL	33538	352-568-9994	<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	\$0.00	\$27.00	\$27.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$37.00	\$37.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$74.00	\$74.00

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 type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional	<input 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 type="radio"/> Required	<input type="radio"/> Optional	<input checked="" 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:

Our Society pays for the rabies shots, if needed--most need one. We have two sets of fees--one for the mobile clinic events which include set-up fees and a separate one for the in-house voucher sterilizations. Both vary by weight for females and whether the dog is in heat or pregnant. We have used an average above. Our fee schedules have been uploaded with financial information.

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

It is partially a voucher system. Vouchers will be given to clients during periods (hot weather) when we will not hold one-day events. They will also be given to people who cannot attend a one-day event. Vouchers are given to be redeemed at two Vets in our county. They are written up in advance.

Other Information

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

Our Society includes reduction of unwanted pets as part of our missions statement. After a year of vouchers and three one-day events we have an experience crew of volunteers and several vets willing to help us out. We have county and local support for this endeavor and lots of public interest.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 50 **Dogs:** 150

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$10,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$50.00

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

Rabies vaccination--we have received donations of rabies vaccine from other vets and when not available we pay for the shots out of our Animal Care or Hope Funds.

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: 08/02/09/ **Projected end date:** 08/01/10

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.

Although we are always seeking grants for various projects (feeding rescued horses is another big project now) we receive generous support from residents of Sumter County. We plan to go directly to the public, explain the costs and sources of funds for this project and ask the public directly to fund the project. We can promote it more aggressively on our website and use the website donations to fund it.

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 can provide a link from our website to the Florida Animal Friends website. We can add an application to our newsletter to encourage readers to get the FAF license plate. If we win this grant, we will notify the local media and promote the license as the source for funding. Our van, which is all over the county, has an FAF license plate.