

Grant ID: 94

**Title of Proposal:** TNR/Public Assistance Spay/Neuter Program

**Agency Type:** Municipal

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Lee County Animal Services

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Lee County Animal Services

**Website Address:** www.LeeLostPets.com

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Ria Brown

**Position:** Public Information Specialist

**Organization Business Address:** 5600 Banner Drive

**City:** Fort Myers

**State:** FL

**Zip:** 33912

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 239-533-9202

**Fax:** 239-432-2118

**Cell:** 239-229-6456

**Email Address:** brownra@leegov.com

### Agency Details

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/07 **End:** 09/30/08

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$2,999,278.30

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$4,045,029.10

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 43 Part Time: 0

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 48

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 125.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** LCAS was advised of the grant by Dr. Julie Levy during the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Assessment Program's visit. LCAS is also a previous recipient.

**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):** 2007

#### 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:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Email</b>
BJ Gerald	Board Member	239-340-0477	Retired	bjgalva@embarqmail.com
Bree Carlin	Chairman	239-357-6101	Sales	breecarlin@gmail.com
Christina Crawfis	Vice-Chairman	239-826-2833	Pet Groomer	pawsbehave@aol.com
Ella Naylor	Board Member	239-281-7874	Writer/Reporter	scotchmgik@yahoo.com
Judith Yevick	Secretary	239-248-7874	Public Relations	judithmeowmeow@aol.com
Lyn Morningstar	Board Member	239-489-3787	Dog Trainer	tedmstar@aol.com
Miriam Schwartzel	Board Member	239-558-8070	Teacher	mimischwartzel@mail.com
Thomas Weaver	Board Member	278-4562	Retired	dogmumbler@embarqmail.com

**Applicant Qualifications**

**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**

7520 **cats** and 5907 **dogs** were admitted.

927 **cats** and 1799 **dogs** were adopted.

6318 cats and 2853 dogs were euthanized.

1514 cats and 2438 dogs were sterilized.

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

Animal control, sheltering, adoptions, licensing, education, spay/neuter, cruelty investigations, fostering, pet placement partnership/rescue, community pet pantry for disadvantaged pet owners, Animal Care Trust Fund.

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

No

**If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?**

97%

**If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption?**

Sterilized before adoption if old enough and of sufficient weight and health.

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

Most are sterilized after adoption but before leaving the shelter; a small number are sterilized after leaving the shelter but within 30 days of adoption when age, weight, or health are factors. Adopters of pets adopted prior to sterilization must pay a deposit which is refundable once the pet is 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.**

Lee County Animal Services has conducted a spay/neuter program since its inception. The oldest program is a voucher program where participating veterinarians received funds from license revenue to give discounts to their clients on spay or neuter surgery. In 2007 LCAS began a formal program for the public which targeted low-income pet owners. In 2008 LCAS expanded the program to include all income levels with varying fees depending on income. Also, in 2008 the voucher program was discontinued so those funds could be targeted to the LCAS in-house program which was more affordable to all income levels than the voucher discounts offered through private veterinarians. In 2009 three low cost clinics opened and LCAS is in the process of referring all pet owners (other than those on public assistance and TNR sterilizations) to those new clinics. The surgeries will be performed by Dr. Christopher Taylor, shelter veterinarian for LCAS. Dr. Taylor graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He has 22 years of experience as a veterinarian including emergency veterinary medicine and has owned his own clinics in Michigan, Virginia, and Lee County, FL. Maria Raiche is the Sr. Veterinary Technician for LCAS and has 21 years experience in veterinary medicine. Maria's experience and abilities are well recognized by the veterinary community. She has lectured at the Caloosa Veterinary Medical Society Annual Conference, set up an emergency shelter in Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina, was named Care Taker of the Year in 2005 by the Florida Animal Control Association and is a FACA certified instructor.

**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?**

We currently have a low-cost sterilization program available to all county residents and a program available to residents receiving public assistance. We have just begun to do TNR sterilizations. By May 1, 2009 we hope to have transferred all of the low-cost sterilizations to the three new clinics which will allow us the ability to handle the TNR and public assistance sterilizations. However, without the extra revenue generated by the low-cost sterilizations we do not have as much funding to cover the costs of the public assistance and TNR.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Lee County, FL
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	590,564
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	9.6
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	178959
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	147641
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	98428
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	6,980
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	5243
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	5865
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2403
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
Our county estimates our population to be 611,925 vs. 590,564 according to www.census.gov. We also believe the number of persons living below the poverty level or suffering from economic hardship has significantly increased since this census information was collected in 2007.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
Residents that allow their unaltered pets to roam; feral cats; and resident's inability to afford sterilization from private veterinary clinics.	
<b>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?</b>	
Lee County Animal Services has a low-cost spay/neuter program for all residents but now that three new low-cost clinics are open LCAS must transition these clients to newly opened clinics in order not to compete or duplicate services offered in the private sector. The income generated by the low-cost but paying clients also subsidized the LCAS program for pet owners receiving public assistance and would also have provided funds for the agency's new TNR program. The three new low-cost clinics will need the income from the low cost clients to run successful operations. They do not currently have funding to do free surgeries for residents on public assistance or to do TNR surgeries at no cost. A large portion of Lee County's license revenue will be used for a clinic expansion in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.	
<b>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:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Pets in low-income families</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources</b>	

- Pit bull dogs
- Feral cats
- Special spay/neuter event
- Other

## Objectives

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

Spay/neuter 417 TNR community cats or pets of owners receiving public assistance. Any fees that could be collected from the cat caretakers or pet owners would be used to extend the number of surgeries performed.

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

It would provide funding for the county's only TNR program and for those owners that cannot afford to cover the cost of their pet's sterilization even through a traditional low-cost program.

## Methods

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

All feral or community cats for TNR would be eligible for the program. Residents providing proof of public assistance would be eligible.

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

The print media and local TV stations will be sent regular press releases to promote the program. However, history has shown that one of the best ways to reach this population is through their neighborhood newsletter produced by the county's Human Services Dept. which regularly works with these communities to deal with other socio-economic problems. Flyers will be placed in the neighborhoods where possible. Information will also be posted on the LCAS website. Volunteers who work within the school system also send information home with students whose families qualify for the program.

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

We have volunteers that can assist with transportation when needed as well as staff who can translate information from English to Spanish either verbally if they cannot read or in writing if they do not read or speak English.

### **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.**

Owned animals will be transported only by the owner. TNR cats will be transported by either the caretaker of the cats or by volunteers who use LCAS vehicles and equipment, i.e., traps, gloves, cat tongs, etc. Volunteers receive the same safety training as staff and sign liability waivers. Driving records are checked and they receive clearance to operate county vehicles through Human Resources, the same as county employees.

## Veterinary Services

### Objectives

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

The veterinarian for the spay/neuter program is Christopher Taylor, DVM, LCAS staff veterinarian.

### Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Lee County Animal Services	5600 Banner Drive	Fort Myers	FL	33912	239-533-7387	<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	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00

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

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

All dogs and cats receive a distemper booster and rabies vaccination if due; pain medication; anesthesia; county license; and microchip ID in addition to the sterilization surgery.

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.

The program would target primarily TNR cats and to a lesser extent pet owners who cannot afford to pay for their pet's sterilization. If some owners or caretakers can afford to pay some toward the cost, the funds would be used to do more surgeries.

**Budget**

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 337 Dogs: 80

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$60.00

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

The grant would cover the cost of the surgical supplies and medication for surgery and labor for a veterinarian and vet tech. Pet license revenue and donations will cover the cost of vaccines, county licenses, microchips, etc.

**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:** 09/01/09/    **Projected end date:** 08/31/10

**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.**

The main funding source to keep the program going would be license revenue that could cover the expenses that grants or donations cannot in the future.

**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.**

LCAS will promote the plate with regular press releases reporting the success of the program and the need for continued revenue to keep the program going throughout the State of Florida. It will also be reported regularly in our agency newsletter. We currently have a link on our website for the Florida Animal Friend Plate. We will also make story pitches to the media to cover stories about the plate and the progress of our program through funding from the plate.