

Grant ID: 111

Title of Proposal: Levy County TNR and Low Income Spay/Neuter Program

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Sheltering Hands, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Sheltering Hands, Inc.	Website Address: www.shelteringhands.com
Person Submitting Proposal: Kathleen Fleck D.V.M.	Position: president
Organization Business Address: P.O. Box 843	City: Williston
State: FL	Zip: 32696
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-817-0663	Fax: 352-732-8720
Cell: 352-817-1752	Email Address: shelteringhands@embarqmail.com

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 04/01/08 **End:** 03/31/09

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$48,654.80

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$46,464.69

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

Number of Active Volunteers: 16

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 210.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Association with previous year recipient

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): none

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
Carolyn Keris	director-volunteers	352-861-9170	retired	
Donald Helfrich	vice president	352-528-3275	retired	sandonhelf@embarqmail.com
Elise Hitchcock	director-rescue liaison	352-494-8959	property manager	elise4678@aol.com
Janet Lowery	director-adoptions	352-368-8575	physical therapist	rlowery@windowclassics.com
Kathleen Fleck	president	352-817-1752	veterinarian	katdvm@embarqmail.com
Leslie Hinson	treasurer	352-207-2413	Marion Co plan dept employee	auntleslieh@aol.com
Mary Flickinger	secretary	352-472-1338	City of Archer transcriptionist	mflickinger3@wmconnect.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

255 cats and 3 dogs were admitted.

225 cats and 2 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

242 cats and 3 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

Sheltering Hands has programs for adoptions (primarily feline) as well as several community assistance programs for cats in need. Cat intake is primarily from homeless, abandoned or injured cats. Adoptions are done through an adoption center at the Ocala Petsmart as well as private and on-line placements. Cats awaiting placement are housed in a network of foster homes or in life residence homes including a seniors for seniors foster program. In addition there are programs in place for injured stray animal assistance, spay/neuter assistance for feral and stray cats as well as medical assistance to low income families for pet medical emergencies.

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.

Sheltering Hands has already been involved in a limited TNR program in Levy County started in January 2009 with funds received from public donations. 91 cats were sterilized at 3 events this year so far. Kathleen Fleck DVM (Sheltering Hands president) has been supervising this program and will continue in this role for the grant as well. She supervised a similar grant through the Humane Society of Levy County in 2007 which was very successful. Several other Sheltering Hands members and volunteers have been assisting with these events and are in place to continue as assistants. 4 veterinary clinics which helped with previous programs are willing to continue providing lower fees for this grant proposal

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?

Currently all cats (and dogs) adopted through our organization (approximately 250 annually) are spay/neutered by one of 3 Marion County veterinary clinics. These clinics also provide reduced cost services for our assistance cases including spay/neuter of approximately 50 stray cats per year. These cases are primarily in Marion County. Our annual expenditures are an average of \$15,000.00 for Marion County cats (and a few dogs) A program for feral cats in 2 Levy County communities was initiated in January 2009. A mobile unit and a low cost spay/neuter facility out of the Levy County area have primarily been used for this program. \$2,000.00 was initially dedicated to this program from our general funds. Additional public support from the targeted communities for this program has added \$2,100.00. To date 91 cats have been sterilized and \$425.00 remains in the TNR account toward future surgeries. Funds for all of these programs are currently from public donations for general support of the organization and for the

TNR effort. There has been great interest from other Levy County communities to be included in our program. Due to our limited budget and severe need for spay/neuter programs in Levy County additional funds would allow Sheltering Hands the ability to continue its TNR program and expand into other Levy County communities. It would also allow for inclusion of low income families owning cats and dogs and give them an opportunity to participate in decreasing the pet overpopulation problem. Although we are active in both Marion and Levy counties we would prefer to focus on Levy county at this time because of the lack of any organized programs for spay/neuter within the county.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Levy County Florida
Total human population in target area:	39,065
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	18%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	11838
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	9767
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	6511
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1141
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1434
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	804
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	417
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
Because of the high rural nature of Levy county it is likely that the feral cat population is above the average percentage.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
The most substantial sources are low income and rural populations who lack resources and awareness of the need and benefits for spay/neuter of their "pets". Continued reproduction increases the stray and feral populations associated with "dumping" of unwanted litters to other areas within the county.	
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?	
There are currently no low cost spay/neuter programs in Levy County. The only spay/neuter options within the county are private veterinary practices. These clinics service the average and above average economic households but do not offer services affordable to most low income families. These clinics are also very reluctant to work with feral cats especially at low cost rates. Most clinics in Levy County charge an additional \$10-20 per cat for handling feral cat cases. Because there are no local options in place for these animal they continue to reproduce and add to the already high pet overpopulation problem in the county The closest low cost facilities are either Alachua or Citrus Counties. Transportation can be an issue that limits their usability by many Levy County residents. The Marion County program is for Marion County residents only. None of these facilities are designed for doing groups of feral cats.	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input type="checkbox"/> 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)?

The objective of this grant will be to expand our current TNR program into more Levy County communities and to include low income households to decrease unwanted litters that become sources of stray cats and dogs. We hope to utilize half of the grant for continuing the TNR project and focus on communities such as Chiefland, Bronson, Yankee Town, Inglis and Gulf Hammock. The other half will be for low income families throughout Levy County who qualify under the program guidelines. It is hoped to provide spay/neuter services to at least 80 dogs and 100 cats in these households

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

Because there are no other programs currently in the county except for the limited TNR program currently underway by Sheltering Hands, this program would increase the number of surgeries at least 3-4 times above the current baseline.

Methods

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

Federal and state low income program participation will establish the eligibility for the low income program. These programs would include WIC, Medicaid, SS Disability, Food Stamps, etc. The feral cat program eligibility will be established by referral from the Levy County Animal Control officers, county or community government requests for assistance, local veterinarians and other rescues. All feral colonies will be under regular supervision and feeding status with at least one caretaker.

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

Because Dr. Fleck was previously involved with a similar target group, a waiting list is currently in place. Other advertising will be utilized as needed and will include notices at related low income program offices, in local community newspapers, at Levy County Animal Services, at low cost vaccine clinics and local pet food suppliers or grocery stores.

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

Barriers will be addressed through verbal and written communication with the potential target groups. This will involve utilization of our base of volunteers who have a wide range of cultural experience, can help provide transportation and are knowledgeable and committed to spay/neuter ideals.

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.

Most of the transportation will be done by the owner/caretaker of the dog or cat. If transportation is needed all animals will be housed in carriers/traps or if too large they will be on a secure leash & collar or harness. In those cases, transportation will be done by Sheltering Hands volunteers who have completed a volunteer liability release and have prior experience with transporting dogs and cats. Closed vehicles such as a van, car or SUV will be used for all transports.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

4 veterinary clinics have signed participation agreements and at least 2 others have verbally agreed to participate pending pricing decisions.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Archer Animal Hospital	16105 SW Archer Road	Archer	FL	32618	352-495-2910	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brick City Cat Hospital	702 S. Magnolia Ave	Ocala	FL	34471	352-732-7877	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humane Society of Inverness	P.O. Box 0805	Inverness	FL	34451	352-344-5207	<input type="checkbox"/>
River City Community Animal Hospital	P.O. Box 551344	Jacksonville	FL	32255	904-733-8123	<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="\$35.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$45.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$65.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$95.00"/>

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$35.00"/>
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:

Ear tipping will be required for the feral cat (TNR) component of the proposal. Rabies & FVRCP vaccination is to be paid by Sheltering Hands. No testing will be available for cats in the feral program. A low income program participation co-pay of \$10.00 per animal would cover the cost of rabies vaccination and capstar/flea control administration required by several of the clinics performing surgeries for the low income component of the proposal. There would be no co-pay for the feral cat program participants

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

No. Verification of low income status would be through documentation of current participation in food stamp, disability, WIC, medicaid, other government supported low income programs or proof of 2008 income (IRS tax return etc.) of less than \$15,000.00. Surgical logs will be provided to participating clinics to verify that participants kept their surgical appointment and that surgery was performed.

Other Information

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

Sheltering Hands is an organization committed to decreasing the numbers of homeless and unwanted animals in the Levy and Marion County areas. A cooperative effort with area veterinarians, shelters and the communities in need will help to achieve these goals. By having a veterinarian on the Board of Directors, Sheltering Hands has a first hand knowledge of the veterinary business and the needs and challenges of operating a large scale spay/neuter program. Through inter-colleague communications a cooperative effort has become a strong basis for success in our previous efforts and we are confident that it will continue with this program as well.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 350 **Dogs:** 80

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$59.00

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

Animal transportation expenses will be paid by either the volunteer doing the transport or by Sheltering Hands general funds. Expenses for food, litter, dewormer, vaccines, flea control products, etc if needed for feral cats during the holding period will be paid through product donations or by Sheltering Hands general funds. Printing costs for forms, postage and other incidental office supplies will be donated or paid through Sheltering Hands general 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: 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.

Sheltering Hands has already begun accumulating funds for the TNR program through special fund raiser events within the planned service communities. These events include bake sales, yard sales, raffles and donation jars at local businesses. In addition Sheltering Hands will continue to utilize a portion of its funds raised through public donations and endowments toward spay/neuter programs such as the low income assistance and TNR programs.

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.

Sheltering Hands will post information on its website and in its biannual newsletter as well as including the information in all press releases and event reports. A flier with the information will be available at all fund raiser events, participating veterinary facilities and will be distributed to all program participants.