

Grant ID: 110

Title of Proposal: Feral Spay / Neuter Fund

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: St Francis Animal Rescue of Venice, Inc

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: St Francis Animal Rescue of Venice, Inc

Website Address: www.stfrancisarfl.org

Person Submitting Proposal: Mary Donohue

Position: President

Organization Business Address: 1925 S Tamiami Trail

City: Venice

State: FL

Zip: 34293

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-492-6200

Fax: 941-492-6200

Cell: 941-706-5217

Email Address: stfrancisar@verizon.net

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$501,256.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$312,499.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 0 Part Time: 6

Number of Active Volunteers: 100

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 300.00

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

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 TNR spay/neuter funding

Organization Structure:

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

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation	Email
Gail Carson	Secretary	941-493-6325	retired office worker	gjcarson@verizon.net
Jill Clark	Vice President	941-587-5176	retired nurse	ammacat@verizon.net
Lin Gruber	Treasurer	941-474-0866	Homemaker	bebe8050@comcast.net
Mary Donohue	President	941-706-5217	Billing Manager	mary.sfar@gmail.com

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

433 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

339 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

26 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

265 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

St Francis Animal Rescue of Venice (SFAR) is a no-kill rescue and adoption center for cats and kittens. SFAR was founded about 16 years ago in response to a cat overpopulation problem at one of the main public beaches in Venice. We are the only facility located in the southern portion of Sarasota county. We provide a permanent shelter for unadoptable cats and kittens, find loving homes for adoptable cats and kittens and arrange foster homes for special needs animal. We also help maintain several feral colonies in the county by providing food and helping with Trap Neuter Release (TNR). In addition, in October 2008, SFAR began a program to provide \$250 a month toward spays/neuters for feral or stray cats. We work with Sarasota-based Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) to promote spay/neuter programs, especially for low income owners, and permit ARC to use our facility once a month for their mobile unit. Additionally, SFAR educates the public on responsible pet ownership. We service Sarasota county primarily, but have also taken in cats and kittens from Manatee, Lee and Charlotte counties. In addition, an all volunteer staff operates the St Francis Animal Rescue Thrift Store, with all proceeds going directly to care of our cats and kittens. The store was profitable throughout 2008. We have a dedicated intake room and new arrivals are placed there. They are immediately treated for fleas and worms. They are also vaccinated as soon as possible. They go to one of our participating veterinarians for an examination, during which time they are microchipped, given a Rabies vaccination and spayed/neutered if necessary. If they require additional treatment for any health issues, they are transferred to our dedicated infirmary. Normally, healthy cats spend about 7 days total in intake and are moved to the adoption room. Kittens under the age of approximately 12 weeks are placed in foster homes usually within 24 hours of arrival. They stay in foster until 12 weeks when they can be spayed/neutered. After they recover from surgery, they are placed in our kitten room for adoption. The number of total cats at the shelter is normally around 200 or so, with an additional 50 permanent fosters and an average 20 temporary fosters (mostly kittens).

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.**

In October 2008, SFAR began funding a spay/neuter program for feral cats. We felt strongly that there was a need to help reduce the population of free-roaming cats. Since we had a core group of trappers in the Venice area who had recently organized their efforts under a single 501(c)3 organization, we approached them about instituting a voucher program to pay for a limited number of spay/neuters for ferals. Under the current budget of \$250 per month for the program, we average about 7 cats per month. The program is under the supervision of Amy Berke, who is our foster and feral cat coordinator. Amy works directly with kittens that can be socialized. Amy has been overseeing the program since its inception in October and has done a wonderful job of organizing the surgeries and evaluating the cats for possible intake into the shelter. She works closely with Theresa Foley who heads the Key West Cat Society (KWCS) and other members of the Venice Cat Coalition, a group of smaller rescues which operates under KWCS. Theresa brings over a decade of knowledge and experience to the project. This grant would expand the number of cats and kittens

we can spay/neuter per month by about 8 times our current number. We recently added a rabies vaccination to the program and are funding the vaccinations from SFAR monies, not from the program's budget. We pay about \$3.50 per vaccine and felt the \$20-\$30 a month was worth the extra protection for the cats and the general public. The financial end is checked by our Treasurer, Lin Gruber, who compares our monthly vet bills against the vouchers Amy has advised Lin she distributed. The numbers are announced each month at the Board meetings.

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?

Under the current monthly budget of \$250 for the program, we can provide about 7 spay/neuters per month on the average. We receive at least 5 to 7 phone calls per day from people who have stray cats in their yards or are feeding colonies, or owners who have either waited too long to spay or asked for help and were turned away and now have a Mom and kittens they can't afford to keep. Based on the requests we receive, doing an average 7 spay/neuters a month will not make an impact in the current overpopulation in our area. In addition there are several known colonies in the Venice area alone that the trappers have been targeting over the years. If we had the funds, we could arrange a clinic day to spay/neuter a colony. For every one cat we spay, another is having kittens. To make the needed impact, we need the funding to do larger numbers at one time.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Sarasota County, with focus on South County, and several communities in northern Charlotte County
Total human population in target area:	522,411
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	44,531
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	158307
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	130603
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	87069
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	not known
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We believe our target cat population is higher because of the lack of TNR and free or low cost spay/neuter in southern Sarasota / northern Charlotte counties and also due to high foreclosure numbers and corresponding animal abandonment rates in those areas.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
We have always had feral colonies in Venice. In fact, SFAR was founded by a group of people who were feeding cats at the North Jetty in Venice back in the early 1990s. At that time, Sarasota county would not allow the cats to be placed back into the colonies once they were removed and spayed/neutered. The county did not support the concept of TNR at all. The colony at the North Jetty is now down to 3 cats whom we know well and still help to feed. It took almost 15 years to accomplish this though since there were no outside services to help during most of that time. That meant more cats kept having litters which kept the colony going and growing. In addition, with a growing number of foreclosures, we have seen an increase of cats being released into colonies. If these animals were not sterilized, they can potentially repopulate a colony that had previously been controlled.	
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?	
Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) of Sarasota offers a free clinic for trapped feral cats monthly in which 80-100 cats are fixed. For owned cats, ARC offers a limited number of surgeries from its mobile spay-neuter van. However, the mobile unit only comes to the Venice area once a month so the waiting list is lengthy. Sarasota in Defense of Animals offers a monthly free clinic for cats in which 30-50 cats are fixed and Cat Depot of Sarasota currently has vouchers for spay-neuter provided to trappers and low income	

residents. Both SDA and Cat Depot are located over a half hour north of the Venice area. Sarasota County has a fund for low income spay-neuter for cats and dogs, but does not publicize the availability well, nor does it offer any services for feral cats. KWCS-VCC is less than a year old and provides trapping assistance and funds a limited number of surgeries with its budget. SFAR has a \$250 per month voucher program for ferals. These resources are insufficient to meet demand, as all clinics are fully booked with overflow each month, and there is a lengthy wait for owned pets for free or low cost spay neuter. Another major issue is that resources are concentrated in the northernmost, wealthiest part of the county. Our program will immediately and directly address the problems of cat overpopulation in the southern part of Sarasota county and in northern Charlotte County where no resources for TNR are in place today. Our trappers currently travel at times approximately 40-70 miles to the south to assist cat caretakers there because they have no local programs for TNR. Our program will initiate an easier process for residents and cat colony caretakers who are currently unable or unwilling to drive the necessary distances to take advantage of the other programs.

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:

- Pets in low-income families
- Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources
- 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)?

To substantially and immediately increase the number of spay/neuters under our current TNR program. At \$250 a month we average about 7 and anticipate we can do another 55 or so a month with the additional monies.

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

SFAR would sponsor 8 times as many surgeries with the additional funding which would bring our total feral spay/neuter for the year to over 700 cats.

Methods

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

When dealing with an individual, eligibility will be determined by the participant's agreement to other aspects of TNR, including fixing every cat being fed and providing shelter, water, basic medical care, etc. to the cats. Participants also must agree to TNR, rather than expecting cat relocation. We strive to turn away no one from spay/neuter, since this practice is the first tenet of responsible and humane cat population control. Determining if an individual is eligible is normally handled by the trappers if it is regarding a colony and/or overpopulation situation. Single cat requests are normally handled by Amy initially and passed on to the trappers if Amy determines it is a situation we can assist with.

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

We will continue the current advertising that takes place in the SFAR newsletter and website. SFAR also has an email list with over 100 contacts and the ability to advertise in our thrift store. The KWCS has a website, email subscription newsletters and news announcements, blog, and most importantly, a weekly booth at the Venice Farmer's Market dedicated to public education about spay-neuter and raising funding for feral cats. SFAR will investigate additional advertising outlets in specific areas if we arrange clinics.

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

Many of the trappers we are working with have a long history in Venice and with SFAR. They have their own means of personal transportation that they use, spending their own gas and putting wear and tear on their own cars - that's why providing clinics closer to this area is critical. They are well-skilled at transporting cats. Any hurdles have always been overcome and will continue to be. The Farmer's Market booth utilized by KWCS reaches all county demographics, including low income and low-education residents. KWCS also uses bi-lingual posters and other material when needed for Spanish-speaking cat feeders. The trappers will teach individuals how to use one of the humane traps but that is usually the extent to which they ask for assistance from the general public. They can demonstrate or even illustrate how to use the traps so this element of trapping can be taught without speaking.

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.

As mentioned above, the trappers will handle the majority of transporting the cats. They use their own personal vehicles and they all have proven track records of safe-driving and safely transporting the animals. They have carriers, cages and traps that they utilize to transport the cats. Cats are normally kept in the traps until professional veterinary staff take over. Members of the public are given strict instructions to use traps rather than attempting to catch feral cats by hand. KWCS and VCC own cages and other safety equipment to assure the protection of the trappers and the animals.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have arrangements with two veterinarians in Venice to perform surgeries on feral cats: Dr Dean Ebert of South Trail and Dr Gary Berkowitz of Jacaranda Vet Associates. We currently pay \$40 to \$55 for spays and \$25 to \$28 for neuters.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
South Trail Animal Hospital	1861 South Tamiami Trail	Venice	FL	34293	941-497-0033	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Associates of Jacaranda	1168 Jacaranda Blvd	Venice	FL	34293	941-492-3080	<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="\$26.50"/>	<input type="text" value="\$26.50"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$47.50"/>	<input type="text" value="\$47.50"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$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
 Examination Required Optional Not Available

Fee to Client?
 No 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 checked="" 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:

The Rabies vaccination is included and is paid for separately by SFAR. Also, from time to time, the trappers come across a cat that may be wounded in some way or may appear otherwise sickly. Our current program, and the additional funding requested herein, does not cover any extra services. The trappers always have an option to pay for it themselves or to request further financial assistance from SFAR. We have a cat in our infirmary now who was trapped to be neutered and the vet discovered he had been attacked by another animal. He required antibiotics and wound care. SFAR worked with the trapper to assist with his additional care. We will continue to evaluate these situations on a cat-by-cat basis.

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

Yes, our current program is a voucher program and we will continue to utilize this system. The current system is set up in the following manner: 1. Trappers are contacted and made aware of a stray/feral cat that needs attention OR the trappers are working on a known colony 2. Trappers contact Amy to let her know they may have a cat for the program 3. Amy confirms there is a voucher available 4. Amy keeps a record of who receives a voucher 5. Cat or kitten is trapped and taken to one of the vets who provides the low cost spay/neuter for us 6. Amy reconciles her vouchers against the vet bills with our Treasurer's assistance 7. Unused funds will carry over

Other Information

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

Amy will mark the vouchers from SFAR so we can determine the exact number of spay/neuters that were done with grant money vs SFAR money

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 676 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$37.00

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

Rabies vaccinations are paid for by SFAR and, as stated earlier, any special circumstances are handled on a case-by-case basis by KWCS. If needed, Theresa requests additional assistance from SFAR. We also have other veterinarians, mainly specialists, in Sarasota County who donate their services from time to time for special cases so we have them as a source for care at reduced or no charge.

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: 08/01/09/ **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.

We plan to continue this program as long as we possibly can and SFAR will continue to provide at least \$250 per month. Having a generous grant such as this one will allow us to respond to the immediate needs of the community more rapidly. Doing over 50

spay/neuters a month will drastically reduce the numbers in a shorter time-frame. With a good, solid head-start, on-going funding at a lesser dollar amount can still be effective on a long-term basis. In addition, our partner KWCS is raising money on a weekly basis through the Farmer's Market booth and regular donations from individuals who want to support TNR. KWCS also sponsors an annual Feral Cat Day event in Venice. Last year's event raised several thousand dollars.

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 already promote on our website and in our newsletters. We will continue to do this. Newsletters are distributed throughout the year at the shelter, thrift store and other locations around the Venice area. SFAR also hands out newsletters at every promotional event.