

Grant ID: 126

Title of Proposal: PACTS: Pets of Alachua County Targeted Sterilization Project

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: No More Homeless Pets, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: No More Homeless Pets, Inc.

Website Address: www.nmhp.net

Person Submitting Proposal: Jeannette Peters

Position: Fiscal Administrator

Organization Business Address: 4205 NW 6th Street

City: Gainesville

State: FL

Zip: 32609

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-376-6647

Fax: 352-371-7412

Cell: 352-226-3406

Email Address: jp@getfunded.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/09/09 **End:** 12/09/09

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$206,295.18

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$326,319.23

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 5 Part Time: 1

Number of Active Volunteers: 35

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 50.00

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

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

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
Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein	Treasurer	352-332-7387	Veterinarian, practice owner	oaksdks@bellsouth.net
Dr. Julie Levy	President	352-273-8722	Professor, University of Fla. College of Veterinary Medicine	levyjk@vetmed.ufl.edu
Gladys Cofrin	Vice President	352-376-8838	Alachua County philanthropist and pit bull advocate	geegracy@bellsouth.net
Robert Hutchinson	Secretary	352-375-6574	Executive Director, Alachua Conservation Trust	hutchrk@aol.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

0 cats and 0 dogs were admitted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.

813 cats and 276 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

MISSION: The mission of No More Homeless Pets, Inc. is to end euthanasia of dogs and cats as a means of population control in north central Florida. Our primary strategy is the implementation of the Operation PetSnip Community Spay/Neuter Clinic, which provides affordable, accessible and high-quality spay/neuter services targeted at low-income pet owners and feral cat caretakers. Operation PetSnip operates under the Humane Alliance model and is part of the National Spay/Neuter Response Team initiative.

BACKGROUND: No More Homeless Pets, Inc. (NMHP) was formed in 2002 as a community collaborative effort to find local solutions to lower the high rate of euthanasia at Alachua County Animal Services. From 2002 through 2008 NMHP provided coordination and support for a variety of adoption, Trap-Neuter-Return and voucher-based spay/neuter projects. The Operation PetSnip Clinic was funded by a 2008 major challenge gift of \$250,000 from local philanthropist and pit bull advocate Gladys Cofrin, which was matched by a \$250,000 grant from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. These funds provided the startup resources for the implementation of our clinic. We also received an important in-kind donation from Humane Alliance of a fully-equipped mobile spay/neuter trailer (the "Big Fix Rig") which allowed us to begin providing spay/neuter services while our Board of Directors completed the long process of identifying, acquiring, renovating and equipping our permanent clinic site. The Big Fix Rig began providing surgeries in June of 2009 and is continuing to operate pending our permanent clinic facility opening in Gainesville during February of 2010. **PROGRAMS:** Our primary target audience for Operation PetSnip services includes low-income residents of Alachua County and the surrounding rural counties of north Central Florida. We also provide low-cost sterilization services to a number of nonprofit pet rescue organizations throughout the region. Sterilization costs \$40 for cats and \$60 for dogs regardless of gender or size. A special package for feral cats includes FVRCP, Rabies, eartipping, Ivermectin and pain medication for \$40. For pet owners, low-cost vaccines and other health services are available as needed on a one-time basis only. Once a pet has been spayed/neutered at Operation PetSnip, they may not return to the clinic for ongoing veterinary wellness care; all pet owners are referred to local veterinarians to establish a health care home base for their animals. Our Public Education Program works to engage the community, particularly low-income and spay/neuter-resistant residents, through outreach, education, facilitation, technical assistance and through the provision of free spay/neuter services when appropriate.

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?

n/a

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

NMHP supports our community adoption partners by providing high volume, high quality, low-cost sterilization services to nonprofit pet rescue organizations. NMHP does not perform adoptions directly. Every pet that enters our program is sterilized unless a veterinary health exam determines that sterilization surgery is not medically appropriate due to age, health, weight, etc.

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

n/a

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.

NMHP's programs are directly aligned with Florida Animal Friend, Inc.'s mission of saving lives by supporting free and low-cost

spay/neuter services. Our board and executive leadership and professional staff are leaders in the field of animal welfare and high-quality pet sterilization initiatives. Our board president, Dr. Julie Levy, is an internationally recognized veterinary researcher and the founder of Operation Catnip of Gainesville, a Trap-Neuter-Return program with more than a decade of success and more than 30,000 stray/feral cats sterilized since 1998. Our Executive Director, Sandi Richmond, has more than 20 years of experience as an animal welfare professional, having served as a cruelty investigator, Humane Society executive director and spay/neuter program administrator. Sandi also has experience as a city government administrator with a proven ability for long-term strategic planning and resource development. Our lead veterinarian, Dr. Randy Caligiuri, has dedicated his professional career to the plight of shelter animals, including stints as Alachua County Animal Services Director, lead vet for the Marion County Neuter Commuter mobile clinic program, and Animal Services shelter veterinarian. All of our clinic team are Humane Alliance-trained and have demonstrated their commitment to the plight of homeless pets through their professional histories and volunteer activities.

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?

As a Humane Alliance clinic, Operation PetSnip is designed to be self-sustaining on surgery fees once initial start-up costs are completed. However, in order show a significant increase in spay/neuter surgeries that will lower euthanasia rates in our community, we need to provide outreach and resources to the low-income and spay/neuter-resistant members of our community who may not be able to afford even our low-cost services, or who may not be persuaded to sterilize their pet unless the service is provided free of charge. At \$40 per cat and \$60 per dog, our sterilization fees are well below market rate, but for very poor families and those with multiple pets, as well as for feral colony caretakers, even these low fees may be a barrier to doing the right thing for their animals. Additional funding resources beyond the Humane Alliance model are needed to provide free services for these special populations.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Alachua County, FL and surrounding rural counties
Total human population in target area:	241,364
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	23% (significantly higher than the State of Florida (12%) and the US as a whole (13.3%))
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	73141
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	60341
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	40228
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3,920
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3,695
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2,412
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1,332
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
As a Maddie's Adoption Project community for the past seven and a half years, Alachua County partners have invested significant resources in data tracking, analysis, reporting and accountability. We believe that the figures shown above are an extremely accurate reflection of our target area animal population.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Our research indicates that the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in Alachua County are free-roaming cats, pit bulls and pit mixes, and hounds/hound mixes bred for local hunting.	
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?	
Private practice veterinarians in Alachua County charge market rates for sterilization surgery (ranging from \$120 up to several	

hundred dollars per pet) and are available to serve middle-to-high-income, motivated pet owners. Alachua County Humane Society's Gallenkamp voucher-based program provides \$40 cat and \$60 dog vouchers that pet owners can use at participating private veterinary clinics; the vouchers do not cover vaccinations, pain medications or other costs beyond the basic surgery. NMHP's Operation PetSnip program offers \$40 cat and \$60 dog sterilization with pain medication included and low-cost vaccinations and other basic health services available on a one-time only basis. A special \$40 feral cat package includes vaccines and pain meds. These programs are targeted to low-income pet owners and feral cat caretakers. While each of these resources is an important piece in our county's plan to eliminate pet overpopulation, there is a significant service gap for very low-income pet owners and for caretakers of multiple feral cats or cat colonies. For the neediest of our county's residents, even \$40 or \$60 is an unmanageable cost. In addition, due to rural and cultural attitudes, a significant portion of our residents are apathetic or resistant to the idea of spaying or neutering their pets. NMHP needs to be able to go beyond low-cost to offer free services to these special populations, but does not currently have funds available to make this a reality.

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)?

Operation PetSnip's goal for 2010 is to increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries in our community by 8,000 over the 2009 baseline. Our objective for the requested funds is to provide free sterilization surgery for 250 cats and 250 dogs belonging to very low-income residents and to culturally resistant residents by Dec. 31, 2010.

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

Our objective for the requested funds will increase spay/neuter surgeries by a minimum of 500 surgeries above 2009 levels for Alachua County. It will directly address pet owners who would not otherwise have their pets sterilized due to severe economic need or educational/cultural attitudes.

Methods

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

1. Low Income: We will target residents of Alachua County and the surrounding communities whose household income is at or below 150% of the 2009/2010 federal poverty level. For example, a family of four earning \$33,075 or less would be eligible for free spay/neuter assistance under these guidelines. For documentation of eligibility we will accept current Medicaid, Food Stamp or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cards or a 2009 federal income tax return. Documentation of participation in other low-income programs such as Head Start or Community Action Programming will also qualify. 2: Resistant Populations: We will conduct special outreach for pet owners that are determined to be culturally resistant to pet sterilization. Outreach staff will work with Alachua County Animal Control to identify neighborhoods or individuals with high rates of impounds or known pet overpopulation issues. Selection factors will be documented in written notes for each recipient under the Resistant Populations criteria, and this information will be used to design future outreach and prevention programs for this special group.

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

Experience has shown us that traditional print and broadcast advertising does not reach low-income and resistant populations of pet owners. We will advertise our program by partnering with community agencies that directly serve our target audience: the Department of Children and Families, Central Florida Community Action Agency, Suwannee River Economic Council, the Alachua County Health Department, Head Start and other agencies serving low-income families. Representatives of these organizations will assist us in publicizing the opportunity for free pet sterilization by distributing information and discussing the program directly with

their clients. We will also conduct direct neighborhood outreach with door-hangers, tabling at community events, flyers in laundromats, hair salons and pawn shops, notices in church bulletins and phone calls or home visits to pet owners identified as resistant.

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

1. Transportation: for program participants without transportation we will provide pick-up and return of pets in partnership with Alachua County Humane Society's pet transport program. 2. Illiteracy: Because our outreach model relies heavily on personal contact and referrals from community partners, we do not anticipate that illiteracy will be a significant barrier to full use of the program. 3. Cultural hurdles: We will work to ensure that our staff and outreach volunteers reflect the cultural diversity of our community. All written program materials will be available in both English and Spanish, and a translation volunteer will be available for Spanish-speaking pet owners.

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.

Pick-up and return of pets for participants without transportation will be provided in partnership with Alachua County Humane Society using their animal transport vehicle (a custom-built transport truck formerly belonging to Alachua County Animal Services). All NMHP and ACHS staff have been trained in safe animal handling and are covered by workers compensation insurance. Cats are transported in carriers, while all dogs are on leash when not in a transport vehicle compartment. Pet owners requesting transportation will sign a liability release form prior to pick-up of their pet.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

Since services began on the Big Fix Rig, we have been working with contracted per diem veterinarians who get a set daily fee to sterilize up to 40 animals per day at our clinic site. Beginning in March 2010 we will transition to a full-time staff veterinarian backed up by our per diem vets and occasional volunteer vets.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
NMHP Operation PetSnip	4205 NW 6th Street	Gainesville	FL	32609	352-376-6647	<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	\$40.00	\$40.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
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?

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 type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
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="\$10.00"/>
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 type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
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="\$15.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional	<input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>

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

Ear tipping is required for feral/stray cats only. Distemper/Parvo and Kennel Cough vaccines are optional for dogs at \$10 each; Panleukopenia/URI and Feline Leukemia vaccines are optional for cats at \$10 each. Heartwork, FeIV and FIV testing is optional for \$15. Dewormer is optional for \$10 and flea/earmite treatment is optional for \$15. All vaccines and optional services are available to an individual pet ONE TIME ONLY at the time of spay/neuter surgery. Pet owners are referred to local veterinary clinics for ongoing pet wellness and veterinary care.

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

This is a clinic-based program, NOT a voucher program.

Other Information

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

NMHP and our community partners believe that targeting very low income and spay/neuter resistant pet owners is the key to increasing pet sterilization above baseline numbers, as these are the pet owners least likely to ever sterilize their cats and dogs. By providing a special fund for free spay/neuter surgery and facilitating participation through outreach and other support, the PACTS project will directly address the most entrenched barriers in our community: poverty and cultural resistance. At an average cost of only \$50 per surgery, the PACTS is an excellent investment of Florida Animal Friends funding with huge lifesaving potential.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 250 **Dogs:** 250

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$50.00

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

Grant funds will be used specifically for the costs of spay/neuter surgery. NMHP will cover the costs of required rabies vaccines using locally-raised funds. Costs of outreach, including printing and staff time, will be absorbed by our ongoing Public Education and Outreach program. We will also solicit in-kind donations of printing and vaccines from community and corporate partners.

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: 08/01/10/ **Projected end date:** 12/31/10

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.

We are excited about the potential impact of the PACTS project on Alachua County Animal Control intake and euthanasia statistics, and we believe that our local community will share this excitement once they see the results of the first year of this project. We will leverage this community enthusiasm to create a permanent PACTS fund to which donors can make directed gifts. We will also use the statistical outcomes of the project's first year to demonstrate impact and effectiveness to make a case for a special PACTS

endowment to major donors, and to support grant applications to funders including PetSmart Charities, ASPCA, private foundations and the Alachua County Community Support Services grant program.

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.

NMHP will acknowledge the Florida Animal Friend grant program on all press releases, newsletters, our website, all printed program materials and through speaking opportunities in our community. We will promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate through a permanent display in our clinic, reminders in our newsletters and press releases, through links on our website and Facebook page, and during community speaking opportunities.