

Grant ID: 129

**Title of Proposal:** Operation Catnip  
**Agency Type:** Non-Profit  
**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00  
**Check Payable To:** Operation Catnip of Gainesville

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Operation Catnip of Gainesville, Inc.  
**Person Submitting Proposal:** Shaye Olmstead  
**Organization Business Address:** 2015 SW 16th Avenue  
**State:** FL  
**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 352-380-0940  
**Cell:** 352-380-0940  
**Website:** www.vetmed.ufl.edu/college  
**Address:** /departments/sacs/catnip/  
**Position:** Program Coordinator  
**City:** Gainesville  
**Zip:** 32610  
**Fax:** 352-392-6125  
**Email Address:** shaye.olmstead@gmail.com

Agency Details

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/01/09 **End:** 12/31/09  
**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$103,233.44  
**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$91,435.61  
**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 1 Part Time: 1  
**Number of Active Volunteers:** 150  
**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 100.00  
**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Dr. Julie Levy  
**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:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr. Dale Kaplan-Stein	Treasurer	352-375-6574	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.

2714 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

In Alachua County, cats are especially hard-hit with the problems of overpopulation. More than half of cats entering Alachua County Animal Control are euthanized, versus only 26% of dogs. Since 90% of pet cats in our community are sterilized, it is apparent that the large populations of homeless cats in Alachua County are the chief source of cat overpopulation. The large number of unvaccinated, fertile homeless cats raises concerns about their impact on the environment, public health, and the welfare of the cats themselves. Operation Catnip mobilizes volunteer veterinarians, technicians, vet students and support crew to hold monthly mass clinics at which 200-250 stray and feral cats are sterilized and vaccinated at very low or no cost to their caretakers. We also implement special trapping missions throughout the month, targeting spots such as trailer parks or vacant wooded areas with large colonies of stray and feral cats. During 2009, approximately 51% of cats sterilized were females, so spaying these cats prevented the birth of at least 10,000 unwanted kittens during only the first year post-surgery.

**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?**

none

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

Adoptions are not a regular part of our program, but occasionally we are able to find homes for kittens and friendly strays that come through our clinic. All cats are sterilized prior to 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.**

Operation Catnip's programs are all focused on reducing the population of stray and feral cats in Alachua County with an ultimate goal of eliminating the need to euthanize these cats as a means of population control. Program personnel, volunteers and board leaders are all highly-qualified. Our monthly clinic is held at the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine under the medical direction of Dr. Julie Levy, a respected veterinary researcher and a national leader in feral cat sterilization advocacy. Program Manager Shaye Olmstead has extensive, proven experience administering volunteer programs and grant-funded projects. Operation Catnip's ability to carry out this program is evidenced by its 12-year history of success, with more than 30,000 stray and feral cats spayed and neutered since 1998.

**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?**

Operation Catnip relies on community donations and grant funding to sustain its lifesaving activities. Each year we must raise the resources needed to accomplish our mission, as we have no ongoing source of year-to-year funding. The cost of surgical supplies and other program expenses continue to rise, while the current economic situation has resulted in a decline in community donations and foundation support. In 2009 we instituted a \$10 per cat co-pay contributed by the colony caretakers who bring cats to our monthly clinics. This has helped to offset rising costs, but can be a barrier to low-income caretakers or those who care for multiple

feral cats. Additional resources are needed to remove this barrier and to expand the number of cats sterilized at each monthly clinic in order to expand our impact on the feral cat population. Funding from the Florida Animal Friend grant program will allow us to provide sterilization services to an additional 835 cats during 2010/2011 to ensure that our impact is sustained and permanent.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Gainesville and surrounding cities in Alachua County, Florida
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	241364
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	23%
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	73141
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	60341
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	40228
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3920
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3695
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2112
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1332
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
We believe that the above figures are an accurate estimate of our target area animal population. Animal control statistics have been provided by Alachua County Animal Services.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
Stray, feral and free-roaming, unsterilized cats are the most substantial sources of cat overpopulation in Alachua County. Although our program does not target dogs, we believe that backyard breeders and unsterilized pet dogs are the most substantial source of dog overpopulation in our community.	
<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>	
The Operation PetSnip community spay/neuter clinic provides subsidized pet sterilization services to low-income pet owners who cannot afford the cost of surgery at the many private practice animal hospitals in our community. Alachua County Humane Society offers a voucher-based program that also meets the needs of low-income pet owners who may prefer to use a private practice veterinarian. Operation PitNip is run by Dr. Debbie Cottrell, who provides free sterilization surgery for pit bulls and pit mixes in her private practice. None of these programs are designed to specifically reduce the breeding of feral/stray cats through targeted trapping and sterilization.	
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feral cats <input type="checkbox"/> Special spay/neuter event <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

## Objectives

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

With funds requested from the Florida Animal Friend program, Operation Catnip will sterilize an additional 835 stray/feral cats above our 12-month base goal of 2,700 cats during the project period of 8/1/10 through 7/31/11 for a total outcome objective of 3,535 animals sterilized during the project period.

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

This program will increase the number of sterilization surgeries by 31% over the 2009 baseline by providing resources for additional spay/neuter surgeries and by eliminating co-pay costs for feral/stray colony caretakers who cannot afford our \$10-per-cat co-pay.

## Methods

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

In order to receive pet sterilization services through Operation Catnip, cats must be unowned strays or ferals from Alachua County. Pet cats do not qualify for this program. Cats must be presented for surgery in humane traps and caretakers must agree to ear-tipping to identify animals as sterilized, unowned cats. This project will target low-income caregivers (enrolled in any needs-based social service program, families earning <200% of federal poverty level), zip codes with high shelter intake of stray cats, and locations that generate complaints to animal control.

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

We will continue our proven successful, low-cost outreach methods: classified advertising in the Gainesville Sun; PSAs and press releases; extensive email outreach to our large email list of feral cat caretakers and advocates; monthly e-newsletters through Constant Contact; public speaking opportunities at community and service club meetings; and door-to-door outreach in target areas with known high feral/stray populations and low-income neighborhoods. Operation Catnip collaborates with Alachua County Animal Services and the shelter staff are a frequent source of referrals of feral cats for trap-neuter-return.

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

We will translate all flyers and other outreach materials into Spanish and post materials in Latino-oriented businesses. Our door-to-door outreach program effectively addresses the issue of illiteracy in neighborhoods with high feral/stray populations such as trailer parks. One-on-one outreach also allows us to address cultural barriers to spay/neuter through education. Our Operation Catnip Program Manager is a skilled community educator with a record of success in motivating residents to accept and participate in Trap-Neuter-Return services.

**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.**

Feral cat caretakers are responsible for transporting cats to our monthly clinics in humane traps. Operation Catnip provides free loaner traps and instructions for their use. All cats must be confined to humane traps at all times unless under anesthesia. Unowned cats trapped during special trapping missions are also confined to humane traps; trapping staff and volunteers undergo extensive safety training. Rabies vaccinations are required for all staff and volunteers who handle cats or traps.

## Veterinary Services

### Objectives

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

Operation Catnip provides Trap-Neuter-Return surgery through monthly mass clinics held at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine utilizing the donated services of licensed local veterinarians and college faculty vets. Veterinary students also participate in sterilization surgery under the supervision of a licensed vet. This provides important hands-on experience for vet students as well as introducing them to the importance of volunteer service and the needs of homeless animals in the community. Our volunteer Medical Director, Dr. Julie Levy, is responsible for oversight of the monthly mass clinic.

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine	2015 SW 16th Avenue	Gainesville	FL	32610	352-273-8722	<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	\$30.00	\$30.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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	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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 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:

For spay/neuter surgeries completed through this project, no co-pay will be charged to feral/stray cat caregivers. The \$30 per cat cost covers expenses related to sterilization only. Rabies and FVRCP vaccines and parasite medications are provided through generous in-kind and cash donations from corporations and the community.

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

This is 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.

Operation Catnip will utilize Florida Animal Friend funding to expand the number of cats we are able to serve by 835 over our 2009 baseline. Funding will help us to eliminate the \$10 per cat co-pay for low-income caregivers which has been a barrier to full community participation in the program.

**Budget**

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 835 Dogs: 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$30.00

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

The cost of program outreach, trap maintenance and replacement, vaccines, parasite control and program administration will be covered by cash and in-kind donations from our generous local and corporate supporters. Funds requested from the Florida Animal Friend program will be used exclusively for the cost of surgery, including surgical and medical supplies and veterinary services.

**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:** 07/31/11

**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.**

Operation Catnip has a 12-year history of success in raising community donations and submitting successful grant applications to support feral/stray sterilization programs. In order to maintain gains made in increasing the number of spay/neuter surgeries above baseline through this project, we will analyze the impact of this project on overall free-roaming cat populations and present these outcomes to local and national funders and community donors to support future funding requests.

**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.**

Operation Catnip will promote the sale of Florida Animal Friend License Plates on our website and at our monthly clinics and other community events. We will make Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate information available at all of our events and clinics. If selected for funding, we will publicize our grant support through press releases, in our newsletter, on our website and whenever our board or staff members speak about Operation Catnip in the community. Dr. Levy and several key Operation Catnip supporters already have the Florida Animal Friend license plate