

Grant ID: 138

**Title of Proposal:** Suncoast Low Cost Assistance  
**Agency Type:** Non-Profit  
**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00  
**Check Payable To:** P.A.W.S Lee County

Application Information

Demographics

<b>Name of Applicant Agency:</b> P.A.W.S. Lee County Inc.	<b>Website Address:</b>
<b>Person Submitting Proposal:</b> Theresa Ink	<b>Position:</b> President
<b>Organization Business Address:</b> 13410 N. Cleveland Avenue	<b>City:</b> N Ft Myers
<b>State:</b> Fl	<b>Zip:</b> 33903
<b>Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):</b> 239-652-6722	<b>Fax:</b> 239-652-6724
<b>Cell:</b> 239-994-2514	<b>Email Address:</b> t.ink@att.net

Agency Details

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 01/31/09 **End:** 12/31/09

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$203,714.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$201,468.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 3 Part Time: 1

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 4

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 60.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous Recipient - D.B.A. Affordable Spay & Neuter of Lee County, Inc.

**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):** 2006

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>
Elton J. Gissendanner	Vice President	863-414-0294	Retired Veterinarian	
Gayle Gosnell	Secretary / Treasurer	239-768-9800	Business Owner	dogcamp@embarqmail.com
Theresa Ink	President	239-652-6722	Retired Accountant	t.ink@att.net

**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.

1928 cats and 1124 dogs were sterilized.

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

We are a low-cost, high volume veterinary clinic for low income individuals in our area. Our goal is to perform 6,000 surgeries in 2010. We perform spay/neuter surgeries, administer vaccinations and microchips, and aid with limited medical treatment for individuals who cannot afford to see a private veterinarian. On a very limited basis we take in a few animals and foster them until homes are found. We will do approximately 200 adoptions during 2010.

**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 1998 when we chose a site for our spay/neuter clinic, we wanted it to be close to Suncoast Estates, an area designated by Lee County Human Services as a depressed community. Suncoast Estates is a semi-rural area with many trailers and a lot of free roaming animals. It really has always been our focus and conservatively, we have spayed or neutered approximately 1,000 animals from Suncoast Estates since 1998. Unfortunately, we have never had enough resources to target this area and make a lasting impact. Theresa Ink, our President and founder, is in charge of daily operations. She is a volunteer and spends a minimum of 40 hours per week on animal welfare. She has a BS degree in Economics from the University of Florida (1969) and a BS degree in Accounting from the University of Central Florida (1973). She successfully passed the CPA exam in 1975 and worked for almost 25 years in the accounting field. She ran the Affordable Spay Neuter Clinic of Lee County Inc from 1998 until 2006 (45,000 surgeries). In 2006, she moved to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida and transferred ownership of Affordable Spay/Neuter of Lee County. When she returned to Ft Myers in 2009, she started P.A.W.S. Lee County and they performed 3,000 surgeries. Dr Gene Rinderknecht is our lead veterinarian and he has a degree from Iowa State University - College of Veterinary Medicine (1973). He has owned several private practices, worked for corporate veterinary hospitals and done extensive emergency work. This broad background gives him the experience necessary to do well in a high volume spay/neuter clinic. In addition, we have at least four relief veterinarians who work when necessary. All have the experience to operate in our environment.

**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 are currently being funded through private donation and also through the cost of our spay and neuter surgeries. The cost to have a cat sterilized is between \$60 - \$75 and a dog is between \$100-\$150. Many of the people who call us are from Suncoast Estates and cannot afford to pay our prices. Due to the need of trying to keep the pet overpopulation as low as possible, we offer these individuals a discounted rate of anywhere between \$30-\$60 for a cat or dog if they are on public assistance. For those who cannot afford even our lowest rate, we have been known to sterilize their animals at no cost to them. With our private donations being at an all-time low due to the recent economic decline, our offset of these low/no cost surgeries comes directly out of our budget for everyday expenses. Additional funding is greatly needed to ensure that the people in Suncoast Estates have our clinic to

turn to for spay/neuter for generations to come.

Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Lee County
<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>	5,243
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	5,865
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2,403
<p><b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>                  We have provided the statistics for all of Lee County. Our primary target population is a subset of that demographic called Suncoast Estates; an area in Lee County designated as low income. Lee County Human Services Department has compiled statistics that show that only 45% of the population of Suncoast Estates has a high school degree, 8% do not own a car, and roughly 45% earn below \$35,000 a year.</p>	
<p><b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>                  This target area is emblematic of Lee County's dog and cat overpopulation. There are many feral cats, a significant population of free roaming pit bulls, and many residents with large numbers of dogs and/or cats per household. Additionally, Suncoast Estates is an area of the county with a disproportionately high number of free roaming dogs and cats. Although Lee County Domestic Animal Services does not keep dog and cat overpopulation statistics by zip code or zones, the majority of the county's animal control officers agree that the Suncoast Estates area has the highest dog and cat overpopulation of any area in the county. We have included a letter from Donna Ward, the director of Lee County Animal Services, as substantiation of this problem in this significantly disadvantaged area.</p>	
<p><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 Domestic Animal Services has a spay/neuter program for individuals on public assistance, however, they are located approximately 30 to 40 minutes drive from Suncoast Estates; while we at P.A.W.S. Lee County are located approximately 10 minutes from Suncoast Estates. This presents a problem for many residents since access to transportation is often a problem for this segment of the population.</p>	
<p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feral cats</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special spay/neuter event</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li> </ul>	

## Objectives

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

Our goal for these funds is to spay/neuter 500 dogs or cats (200 dogs/300 cats) for pet owners living in Suncoast Estates. Specifically, 150 male cats at \$40 each, 150 female cats at \$50 each, 100 male dogs at \$ 60 each, and 100 female dogs at \$65 each. This ratio of cats to dogs is based on current historical records of the ratios that we are experiencing at the clinic.

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

The funds provided by this program would subsidize surgeries for those pet owners that cannot afford to cover the cost of their pet's sterilization, even through a traditional low-cost program such as ours. This will result in our ability to provide more public services to reduce the overpopulation in the target area beyond our past and current level.

## Methods

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

Any pet owner or caregiver who has pets located in the Suncoast Estates area will be eligible for this program.

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

We have found that the local newsletter for Suncoast Estates, which is published by Lee County, is one of the most effective ways to advertise in this area. In addition to print material, we currently have a volunteers who distribute food to Suncoast Estate residents from our Pet Pantry on a daily basis. If granted this program, we would include program fliers with each delivery explaining our sterilization services to the food recipients as well as neighboring houses. Lastly, we will seek time-honored public service announcements through our local newspaper, television, and radio.

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

We at P.A.W.S. Lee County have traditionally provided transport for pets from the Suncoast Estates area when there is a need. Through sustained and caring medical services, we have established a good reputation in this area, and the residents of every ethnicity have come to trust us and our mission. This trust is reinforced daily by our food pantry distributions, which has also helped diminish cultural barriers.

**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.**

We at P.A.W.S. Lee County use our own personal vehicles to transport pets to and from our clinic when there is a demonstrated need. We normally seek the assistance of the pet's owner in the handling of problem animals. We always require receipt of a signed liability release from the pet owner before transport, and each of our staff has received special training to ensure the safety of the animals and the handlers.

## Veterinary Services

### Objectives

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

Dr. Gene Rinderknecht is P.A.W.S. Lee County's head veterinarian and works for us full time. In addition, we have four other veterinarians available on an as needed basis. To aid Dr. Rinderknecht we have two trained veterinary technicians with fourteen years of experience.

### Veterinary Practices

### 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	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$10.00	\$60.00	\$70.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$10.00	\$65.00	\$75.00

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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$10.00
<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$5.00
<b>Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$20.00
<b>Licensing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$8.00
<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:  
 FVRCP \$10 DA2PP \$10 Leuk/Aids \$20 HWT \$20 Strongid \$5 Microchip \$25/\$10 if Public Assistance

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 added surgeries that will result from the funds provided by this program will allow us to perform operations six days a week, instead of four, as we are currently doing. We at P.A.W.S. Lee County are fully staffed to be able to operate every day of the week except Sunday. Additionally, we currently have all of the equipment necessary to perform this quantity of surgeries. Because P.A.W.S. Lee County has been at the same location since 1998, our target area is very well aware of our mission and our veterinary abilities.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 300 Dogs: 200

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:

Rabies vaccinations will not be covered by the grant and will continue to be paid for by the client, if possible, or from the spay/neuter clinic's normal income, if not possible. This grant will cover the cost of surgical supplies, medications and anesthesia for surgery. The grant will also cover labor for a veterinarian and a technician for the additional surgeries.

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:** 09/01/10/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/11

### 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.**

P.A.W.S. Lee County plans to encourage each pet owner paying for services at our clinic to assist us in keeping this program funded for the future by seeking a contribution of \$10 from each customer. We plan to seek a minimum contribution of \$10, but, alternatively, we will ask the client to tell us how much they can contribute. All contributions will be graciously accepted for this worthy cause. In the past, I have been amazed and pleasantly surprised at how much our clients are willing to help us, when we have provided services for their pets at a very reasonable cost. We also always encourage vaccinations or worming, which many of these animals have never received. This incremental service adds a small amount to the clinic's revenue.

### 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.**

P.A.W.S. Lee County will promote the purchase of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter license plates through local newspaper, television, and radio press releases reporting how the success of the of the license plate program is crucial to dealing with the unwanted, homeless dog and cat over population problem in our communities. If we receive this grant assistance, Lee County government has agreed to report on the program's assistance in their agency newsletter. P.A.W.S. Lee County has many journalist friends in television and newspaper and we will request a special interest story from them to inform the public on how the license plate funds are being distributed and how vital the program's continued success is to our community.