

Grant ID: 123

**Title of Proposal:** A HELPING HAND FOR PAWS AND PURRS  
**Agency Type:** Municipal  
**Total Funding Requested:** \$17,500.00  
**Check Payable To:** Santa Rosa County Animal Services

Application Information

Demographics

<b>Name of Applicant Agency:</b> Santa Rosa County Animal Services	<b>Website Address:</b> www.santarosa.fl.gov
<b>Person Submitting Proposal:</b> Tara Deaguilera	<b>Position:</b> Kennel Technician 2
<b>Organization Business Address:</b> 4451 Pine Forest Rd	<b>City:</b> Milton
<b>State:</b> FL	<b>Zip:</b> 32583
<b>Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):</b> 850-983-4680	<b>Fax:</b> 850-983-4686
<b>Cell:</b> 850-376-6568	<b>Email Address:</b> tarad@santarosa.fl.gov

Agency Details

**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 08/01/08 **End:** 07/31/09

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$58,800.00

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$1,667,000.00

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 19 Part Time: 2

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 10

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 20.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** Previous recipient.

**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):** 2007

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
Dominic Persichini	Director	850-983-4680	Director of Animal Services	dominicp@santarosa.fl.gov

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

4621 cats and 3751 dogs were admitted.

262 cats and 485 dogs were adopted.

4221 cats and 2382 dogs were euthanized.

262 cats and 485 dogs were sterilized.

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

In addition to animal control, we have a dedicated adoption program . We also have an adoption program with Petsmart. We also have several adoption events throughout the year. In addition, we have many outreach events for education to the public. One of the areas we really need to offer assistance to the public is through spay/neuter services.

**If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption?**

No

**If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?**

14

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

Any animal adopted from the shelter over 6 months of age is altered prior to leaving the shelter. If the animal is under 6 months of age, the adoptive family has to prepay for the surgery before they can take the animal home.

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

All animals are altered prior to leaving the shelter except those under 6 months. In addition to the prepay required, we follow up with the veterinarian to ensure that the procedure has been done. It is a requirement that this is completed so we make sure this is done.

**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 ou this program.**

We were fortunate enough to have received a grant 3 years ago, and we had a great response from the public. Our staff did a great job in handling the traffic and we feel that this year we can streamline the program so that we are more efficient with paperwork as well as scheduling. We changed the amount to not require a copay because we really feel that with the current economy, even the slightest amount can sometimes be too much for an owner to come up with. While we realize that our request may not alter as many animals as other applications, we feel this is the best way to keep our local veterinarians satisfied with their paymnet amount while still helping as many animals as we can. Without their support we could only provide half as many surgeries for the amount requested.

**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 do not have a specific program for sterilization at this time. We do perform spay/neuter services for various adoption events, but we really want to offer the public assistance in getting their animals altered. We have recently started a program called Partners For Pets, which we hope to utilize in the future for spay/neuter programs. We are very excited about the participation of our local veterinarians, as well as the support of our county administration. However, this program is brand new and we do not have funds available at this time for a spay/neuter program, and we feel there are so many citizens that are in need of help. This will be a big step in getting that program off to a great start. With the grant money we can start altering animals immediately. Even though it may not seem like a high number of alters, we feel it will make a great difference in the community.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Santa Rosa County Fl
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	150,000
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	10%

<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	45455
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	37500
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	25000
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4621
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3751
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	4221
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2382
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
Our target population covers the entire county, since there are no programs for spay and neuter assistance. If we are able to receive this grant, we feel it can really help the citizens in the target area.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
We believe that the most substantial source of overpopulation comes from the family household. They have good intentions and they may be a good pet owner, but unfortunately the cost of the spay or neuter is more money than they have available at one time for the services. The animal then reproduces and the cycle starts.	
<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>	
We currently do not have any type of spay/neuter program in Santa Rosa County. With the large rural areas and high number of residents with low income status, we really see a need for a dedicated spay/neuter program. In addition, the economic situation at this time has only added to the problem. We feel that it is critical for us to be able to provide assistance to the public in these tough times. Unfortunately, there are no current programs in our county at this time to help citizens.	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Pets in low-income families</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pit bull dogs</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Feral cats</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Special spay/neuter event</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	

**Objectives**

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

With the grant money, we hope to further the work we started with the first grant we received. There is no spay/neuter program in the entire county, so we are the only chance some families have to get their animal altered. With the funds, we hope to alter approximately 300 animals. At a rate of 75.00 per dog and 50.00 per cat, approximately 200 cats and 100 dogs will be altered. While this number may not seem large, we think this will give the public an opportunity to be more responsible pet owners as well as putting a dent in the overpopulation of the county.

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

With the grant, we will be given an opportunity to assist the citizens in the community that could not afford the spay/neuter on their own. Without our help, they simply would not get the animal altered, which of course just adds to the overpopulation. It creates such a cycle within even that one residence, that could have been prevented.

## Methods

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

During our last grant, we used a specific criteria. If a citizen received any type of assistance and could provide proof, they would be approved. There was also a monetary scale that they had to fall within. This worked very well and we feel we were able to help the citizens that needed assistance.

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

We will use all newspaper outlets, internet, as well as television to get the word out. We know word of mouth is a great advertisement in itself, as well as repetition. With this in mind, we will send the message out to every media avenue that we can on a regular basis to get the word out. From our past experience, local radio coverage seemed to really give us a big push at the end of the time period, so we really want to utilize that method again. We will also distribute information at events we attend. We also will be able to have a commercial that will air on many stations with our partnership with our local Mediacom representatives.

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

We have a great staff of officers who work in the field. They are very helpful in recognizing when a citizen may need extra help due to circumstances out of their control. We will always assist the public in a nonjudgemental way, so that they know we are here to help them.

### 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.

If necessary our officers can assist on a case by case basis. However, during our last spay/neuter program, we did not have a situation where this was needed. If the situation does arise, our officers are trained professionals who can assist in a special situation.

## Veterinary Services

### Objectives

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

Our veterinarians have agreed to participate in our grant application, and we are very pleased with this. They have agreed to do the spays for 75.00 and neuters for 50.00. We will be calling and scheduling the appointment and using the FAF number to make the paperwork as easy for them as possible.

### 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	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</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>Pain Medication</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>Parasite Medication</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>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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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:

The grant will strictly cover the cost of the surgery. We want this to focus on the important issue, which is overpopulation. We will not offer any other services. If the citizen wants any other procedures, he will be required to set that up separately with the veterinarian. The rabies will be required in order for the surgery to be scheduled. We have chosen a straight fee for dogs and for cats, instead of breaking it up for male and female surgeries. We feel this will make it easier for all parties involved, and we will be able to get this out to the public easier than having to specify that the amount may change depending on size, sex, etc. We believe this will make paperwork much easier as well.

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

This will be a voucher program. Our office will make the appointment only after all paperwork has been completed and approved. They will then receive their number, which is their validation for the surgery. During our last grant, this seemed to go well for everyone, so we are going to go with what works.

### Other Information

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

In 2007, we were so fortunate to receive a grant. We are able to take what we learned from that process and apply it to this opportunity to make sure that we can utilize the full amount of funds requested. We fell a bit short last time, and we are strictly asking for what we know we can complete, as to not distract funds from other groups that can use them. Our grant was a big success, the only problem being that many citizens came in at the last minute and we were not able to assist them. This year we are going to promote this on a bigger scale, just making sure that that everyone in the public is aware of our program from the start, so that we do not miss even the slightest chance to help absolutely every pet that the grant will provide for.

### Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 200 Dogs: 100

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$17,500.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$59.00

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

The rabies is required and this will be the pet owner's responsibility. Since this is something that is required by law, hopefully most of the pets are current already. If they are not, then this is a great motivator for owners to get their animal current.

### 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: 06/23/10

### 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 applied and received a grant in 2007. It was a great help to our community, although we see that there are so many more who need help, particularly with the current economy. So we do realize that this is something that needs to be a long term program, even after the grant money is utilized. This is why our county has started a program, entitled Partners For Pets. The goal is to eventually have the funds available for a low cost spay/neuter program, as well as further education in the community. The program is very new and funds are slow to start, but we feel this is a giant step in the right direction. One of our issues is that we are the only animal facility in the entire county. There are no other shelters and no other programs located in Santa Rosa County. We really feel that this is a huge responsibility, and we want to be able to assist our community in this great problem. With our Partners For Pets program, the citizens will see that the money stays right here in the community, so they may be more inclined to donate. This is a very new program that has started a few short months ago, but we feel that it will slowly grow as the public becomes aware of it. We eventually hope to incorporate business groups as well so that we may get larger funding to help our citizens.

## 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 are very excited to publicize this wonderful grant. We can attest firsthand that the money really does go to help spay/neuter. We do a biweekly local television show, and we plan to continue to talk about the Spay/Neuter License Plate, as well as list information about it. We also have a petfinder site, a county website, and the animal services website where this can be put on. We also have a great working relationship with our local radio stations. They have been extremely helpful in promoting any animal issues, so we will continue to utilize them as a valuable resource. In addition, Mediacom, our local cable provider, has offered us to do a commercial for the License Plate. This will air not only on our local channel, but will put into rotation as a psa on several premium channels, which will really get the word out. We know word of mouth is sometimes an untapped resource, so we will continue to make this information available and important at any public events. We also will work with our local print media to continue to get the word out. We understand that making people aware of how easy they can help is extremely important.