

Grant ID: 274

Title of Proposal: Alachua County Humane Society Free Spay/Neuter Program
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Alachua County Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Alachua County Humane Society	Website Address: www.alachuahumane.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Eric Van Ness	Position: Executive Director
Organization Business Address: 4205 NW 6th ST	City: Gainesville
State: FL	Zip: 32609
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 352-373-5855	Fax: 352-373-1087
Cell: 352-328-7185	Email Address: evanness@alachuahumane.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/10 **End:** 12/31/10
Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$971,402.88
Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$791,930.79
Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 8 Part Time: 6
Number of Active Volunteers: 250
Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 425.00
How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Word of mouth.
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
Cherie Fine	Member	352-376-6046	Attorney	cheriefine@cox.net
Chris Tharp	Member	352-316-0666	Media Personality	cwtharp@gmail.com
David Hunter	Member	352-229-4240	Banking / Real Estate	huntergator@gmail.com
Deborah Hunt	Member	352-374-3670	Attorney	deborah.ader.hunt@gmail.com
Diana Markovits	Secretary	352-256-4455	Media Sales / Personality	dmarkovits@sunshinebroadcasting.com
Ira Baron	Treasurer	352-377-2341	Accountant	ibaronfla@aol.com
Lua Mellman	Vice President	352-871-1462	Attorney	mellmanl@sao8.org
Nick Moskowicz	Member	352-373-5855	Online Retail	nm@threadpit.com
Ryan Kern	President	352-318-3569	Medical Device Development	rkern@optimaneuro.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

391 cats and 318 dogs were admitted.

352 cats and 315 dogs were adopted.

5 cats and 1 dogs were euthanized.

543 cats and 784 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

MISSION: To act as an advocate for pets and pet owners through the adoption and rehabilitation of pets, humane education, cruelty prevention, and by promoting the spaying/neutering of our community's companion animals. Our current goal is to end the unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals in Alachua County Florida. We will accomplish this through a combination of education, adoption, and spay/neuter programs. BACKGROUND: The Alachua County Humane Society was formed in 1972 by volunteers who recognized the need for animal advocacy in Alachua County. PROGRAMS: Adoptions – The Alachua County Humane Society is the lead agency in the Maddie's Pet Rescue Coalition of Alachua County – a group that has helped reduce euthanasia in Alachua County by 60%. We find homes for animals that we transfer out of the county facility. We choose to take animals almost exclusively from the county facility in order to reduce their euthanasia rate. Gallenkamp Low Cost Spay / Neuter Program – We work with 22 veterinary practices to provide a low cost spay / neuter options for Alachua County residents. Clothing Voucher Program – We work with Peaceful Paths (a violence intervention program), Florida Works (through their program to help elder people re-enter the workforce) and others to provide clothing for people in need. This program helps us reach and educate segments of the population that are typically not as aware of the need to spay / neuter.

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.

The Alachua County Humane Society is dedicated to ending euthanasia in Alachua County Florida. Toward that end, we get the animals that we adopt almost exclusively from Alachua County Animal Services – the County run facility. Adoptions alone though will not end euthanasia, so we are also seeking to expand our spay / neuter efforts. We have been successfully administering our Gallenkamp Low Cost Spay / Neuter Program for over fifteen years. As the lead agency for Maddie's Pet Rescue of Alachua County for the past 9 years we recognize the importance of and are very accustomed to accurate accounting of program statistics. We will be partnering with No More Homeless Pets (NMHP), a low cost spay / neuter clinic to perform the surgeries. NMHP performed thousands sterilizations last year and has confirmed that they have the capacity to perform many more.

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?

For middle to high-income pet owners, veterinarians offer sterilization services/packages from one to several hundred dollars per animal. For lower income pet owners (who are typically less interested in spay/neuter at the higher cost), we offer our Gallenkamp voucher-based program. The vouchers are \$40 for cats, \$60 for dogs under 60lb and \$65 for dogs 60lb or over and cover only the procedure and anesthesia. The pet owner is still typically responsible for other costs associated with the surgery such as an exam fee, vaccinations (if animal is not current) and post-operative pain medication. NMHP's Operation PetSnip program offers \$40 cat and \$60 dog sterilization, basic exam and post-operative pain medication. Low cost vaccinations and other basic health services are also available on a one-time only basis along with the sterilization. For low-income caretakers of feral cat colonies, NMHP also offers a feral cat package which includes vaccines and pain medication. The PACTS (Pets of Alachua County Targeted Sterilization) Project through NMHP is about barely six months old and has only just begun to reach a reach a significantly underserved portion of the population. Resources are still insufficient for those unable or unwilling to pay.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Alachua County, FL and surrounding counties
Total human population in target area:	241,364
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	23% (State-wide is 12%, National is 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)	3187
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	3272
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1759
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1172
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We believe the numbers to be accurate. We have been the lead agency for Maddie's Pet Rescue project in Alachua County and as a result of that project we have spent the past 9 years thoroughly tracking the data.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Our tracking has indicated that the most significant sources of dog and cat overpopulation in our area are free-roaming cats, pit bull mixes and hound mixes.	
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?	
For middle to high-income pet owners, veterinarians offer sterilization services/packages from one to several hundred dollars per animal. For lower income pet owners (who are typically less interested in spay/neuter at the higher cost), we offer our Gallenkamp voucher-based program. The vouchers are \$40 for cats, \$60 for dogs under 60lb and \$65 for dogs 60lb or over and cover only the procedure and anesthesia. The pet owner is still typically responsible for other costs associated with the surgery such as an exam fee, vaccinations (if animal is not current) and post-operative pain medication. NMHP's Operation PetSnip program offers \$40 cat and \$60 dog sterilization, basic exam and post-operative pain medication. Low cost vaccinations and other basic health services are also available on a one-time only basis along with the sterilization. For low-income caretakers of feral cat colonies, NMHP also offers a feral cat package which includes vaccines and pain medication. The PACTS (Pets of Alachua County Targeted Sterilization) Project through NMHP is about barely six months old and has only just begun to reach a reach a significantly underserved portion of the population. Resources are still insufficient for those unable or unwilling to pay.	

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)?

With these funds, we will provide sterilizations for 250 cats and 250 dogs belonging to low income individuals/families in the Alachua County Area by August, 2012.

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

We know that low income pet owners decline to participate in our voucher program because of cost. This program will increase the number of sterilization surgeries by including those unable or unwilling to pay for the surgery.

Methods

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

Individuals making less than 1.5 times the federal poverty level will be eligible. A person may bring documentation of participation in Head Start, Food Stamps, Medicaid, SSI or other programs, or a 2010 federal tax return.

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

Our primary form of advertising will be personal individual outreach. Because we already have a voucher program, we receive numerous daily requests for free options. We will also promote the program through our regular community outreach appearances and printed materials.

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

Because we are in the community and most of our outreach is personal, illiteracy and the cultural hurdles have already been bridged. There are a lot of people willing to spay/neuter if they are obligated to less than \$20. We will coordinate transportation for those in need.

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.

For those needing transportation assistance, one of our trained animal care staff will use our animal transport truck – cats will be additionally confined in carriers or traps. Pet owners requesting transportation assistance will be required to sign a release of liability form before the animal will be picked up. Our personnel are trained in animal handling and work with animals every day.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

The surgeries will be performed at No More Homeless Pets Operation Petsnip clinic.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Operation PetSnip, No More Homeless Pets, Inc.	4205 NW 6th Street, Suite A-2	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 \$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 \$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 \$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 \$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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other	<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:

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, FelV 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 not a voucher program. It is clinic based.

Other Information

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

In addition to our ongoing Gallenkamp Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Voucher Program, the Alachua County Humane Society has participated in spay/neuter outreach and spay/neuter "events" for many years. Even those who seem resistant to spay/neuter, tend to be willing when they will have to pay less than \$20. They are the people who would otherwise not be sterilizing their animals. With the price barrier eliminated, we will be able to serve those who we previously had to turn away.

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:**

The grant funds will be used exclusively for the surgeries. All outreach will be accomplished with our large volunteer base and our existing relationships.

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: 08/01/11/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/12

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.

The Alachua County Humane Society has a long history of fundraising in the community and a long history of assisting with the cost of spays/neuters. We will use this history and our record of success to promote the new program and to build a funding base to continue the project.

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.

The Alachua County Humane Society recognizes Florida Animal Friend, Inc.'s contribution to helping end unnecessary euthanasia and will acknowledge the Florida Animal Friend grant program on all press releases, newsletters, website links, Facebook and other social media, printed materials and through speaking engagements – in person and radio appearances. Information about Florida Animal Friend will also be included in our adoption packets.