

Grant ID: 273

Title of Proposal: SNAP (Spay & Neuter Assistance Program)
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Alaqua Animal Refuge

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Alaqua Animal Refuge	Website Address: www.AARFlorida.com
Person Submitting Proposal: Laurie Hood	Position: President
Organization Business Address: 914 Whitfield Road	City: Freeport
State: Florida	Zip: 32439
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 850-880-6399	Fax: 850-835-0036
Cell: 850-685-0288	Email Address: lh@lauriehood.com

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 01/01/10 **End:** 12/31/10

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$590,574.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$532,294.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 7 Part Time: 3

Number of Active Volunteers: 200

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 300.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Research and from receiving one in the past.

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): 2009

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
Amy Rogers	Director	850-582-7427	retired	ahrogers@earthlink.net
Charles Morgan	Director	850-259-9604	Owner, Harbor Docks Restaurant	monkmorgan@aol.com
Christy Scaly	Directore	850-217-2173	Executive Director, E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center	crscally@eowilsoncenter.org
Dana Mathews	Director	850-837-3662	Attorney, Matthews & Hawkins	dmatthews@destinlaw.com
Kasey Cuchens	Director	850-835-2424	Owner, Choctaw Piling & Dock	kasey@choctawbay.com
Laurie Hood	President	850-880-6399	Executive Director, Alaqua Animal Refuge	lh@lauriehood.com
Linda Draper	Vice President	850-267-3123	retired school teacher	dranic@embarqmail.com
Richard Liles	Director	850-267-2600	Owner, Liles & Company	richardlilesco@mchsi.com
Taylor Hood	Treasurer	850-664-9770	General Manger, Preston Hood Chevrolet	taylor@prestonhood.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

207 cats and 588 dogs were admitted.

182 cats and 493 dogs were adopted.

4 cats and 10 dogs were euthanized.

487 cats and 699 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

S.N.A.P. (Spay & Neuter Assistance Program): Provides assistance for low-income families for sterilization in Walton County, Fla. Spay and Stay: Feral cat program designed for individuals willing to care for a colony of animals. Grace's Fund: Provides help for abused animals who are in need of medical treatment. Black Dog Society: This Alaqua-related organization was created to raise awareness for what is commonly referred to in the field of animal-rescue as "black dog syndrome." Across the country, black dogs are often overlooked in shelters for a variety of reasons and rescuers struggle to combat this challenge. AARK (Alaqua Animal Refuge Kids): AARK gives kids hands-on experience through a new community-based service organization dedicated to teaching children the value of protecting animals and giving back to their community. Guardian Angel: Created to inform and solicit donations from the community to help some of the neediest animals that come to the Alaqua Animal Refuge. We not only find the animals new homes, but we make sure these animals get the medical care, time and attention needed to heal. Partners, a Senior Citizen/Special Needs Pet Program: Any senior in need of a companion animal or special needs persons requesting a pet for service or companionship can apply for a free pet courtesy of AAR. Seniors no longer able to keep an AAR pet are guaranteed that we will take the animal back at any time.

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 ou this program.

The refuge has an assigned employee that enters in all data and applications into our accounting program, QuickBooks. We are then able to run weekly reports which include the number of procedures done and the amount of money spent.

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?

S.N.A.P. (Spay & Neuter Assistance Program): Provides assistance for low-income families for sterilization in Walton County, Fla. Spay and Stay: A feral cat program designed for individuals willing to care for a colony of animals. Both programs are in high demand, as we are the only spay and neuter provider of any kind in our county. Past numbers are based on word of mouth only,

but as our organization grows, we are forced to turn away applicants. Budgets for combined spay and neuter programs was \$105,000 for 2010 and they are entirely grant-funded.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Walton County, FL
Total human population in target area:	55,105
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	13.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	16699
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	13777
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	9185
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	unknown
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
We are the only program in Walton County as well as in most of the surrounding counties in our region. The majority of this region is rural, with limited veterinarian services, if any at all, available.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
We believe the lack of accessible spay and neuter programs and the prohibitive cost involved for those wanting to have the surgery is the cause of so many animals being euthanized as well as breeding uncontrollably.	
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?	
The only spay/neuter services in this area are provided by our organization.	
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:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs <input 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)?

We would like to continue to offer S.N.A.P. , as well as increase it with additional funding to meet the high demand. The applications we receive are greater than the funding at this time. In March of 2011 alone, there was an excess of 52 applications for which we were unable to provide certificates for due to the lack of funding.

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

Our current average vet reimbursement is \$50 per procedure, so should the full \$25,000 be granted to Alaqua Animal Refuge's SNAP, we would be able to provide approximately 500 surgeries.

Methods

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

Our application process begins with an interested party completing and submitting the official forms. We verify that they live in Walton County, Fla., and they must provide their income information. Each household can apply only once a month, and we encourage feedback from veterinarians on a regular basis.

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

We currently utilize all types of media, including Internet, newspaper, radio, television and free social-networking outlets such as Facebook, YouTube, and My Space. In addition, we circulate flyers in all vet clinics, feed stores and other local businesses. We have ongoing community outreach programs which include meeting with local groups, businesses and homeowner associations to educate them on the importance of our programs. In addition, our local animal control department recommends our program to individuals they identify as in need.

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

We have volunteers willing to help transport for those in need. We also have bilingual staff and volunteers that can communicate with 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.

No.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

Our primary veterinarian for our SNAP Program is responsible for 80 percent of the certificates. However, every vet in our county accepts the certificate, but at an additional cost to the client. The client presents a certificate that Alaqua Animal Refuge generates and the veterinarian mails in the certificates monthly for reimbursement.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Aidmore Animal Clinic	450 Baldwin Avenue	Defuniak Springs	FLorida	32433	850-892-5435	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barry Veterinary Hospital	29 South Shore Drive	Destin	FLorida	32550	850-837-7072	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Amy Williams	914 Whitfield Road	Freeport	Florida	32439	850-880-6399	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freeport Pet Clinic	907 Hwy. 20 East	Freeport	Florida	32439	850-835-0035	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kindness Pet Hospital	6744 W. Hwy 30A	Santa Rosa Beach	FLorida	32459	850-267-0340	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walton County Animal Hospital	1640 Hwy 90 East	Defuniak Springs	FLorida	32433	850-892-5874	<input 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	\$40.00	\$40.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Pain Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
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:

Range for dogs depends on size and we reimburse \$40 for a small dog, \$50 for a medium sized dog, and \$60 for a large dog. Additional costs are billed for dogs in heat or if a testicle has not dropped. We based the range on our agreement with the veterinarian that does the highest volume of surgeries in our program (80 percent or more) and the other veterinarians who participate charge clients varied amounts; therefore, the data was inconclusive.

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

Everything is generated from our office through our accounting program and closed out the same way.

Other Information

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

Our organization took over an existing organization (C.A.R.E.), which started the SNAP Program in 1999. In 2008, we assumed responsibilities and increased the program by 400 percent in that first year, which is where the number remains today. Our community is dependent on Alaqua Animal Refuge to continue to provide this service. And as our economic climate remains uncertain in Northwest Florida, particularly in the wake of the BP oil spill, a spay/neuter solution is needed more than ever.

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:

Clients are responsible for rabies or any other shots recommended by the veterinarian. Our primary veterinarian accepts the certificates at face value, but others do charge additional expenses.

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: 09/01/11/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/12

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.

Through SNAP, our goal is to sterilize as many animals as we can, track the progress and success, request additional funding from our local government and other grants and to seek ongoing community financial support. Community fund raisers are also an important part of this goal.

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.

Creating awareness of the plate will be key in promoting its benefits, which can, in turn, drive the selection of it. We have a sizable and loyal following; strong media coverage featuring targeted and strategic messaging; viable social networking efforts; an interactive website and our own online television program (Alaqua TV). Through these outlets, we can implement a strong promotional-outreach initiative. All members, supporters, viewers and the community can be informed of one person can make a difference and how their contribution can positively impact our community. We also plan to use our AARK program (for children) to promote the license plate, as they are always looking for opportunities to promote our cause. This tactic might include creating materials for children to take home to their parents to promote the plate. As well, we will have the information on-site, and at events to inform the public of the cause.