

Grant ID: 215

Title of Proposal: Pit Bull/Feral Cat Spay & Neuter Programs
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Inc.	Website Address: www.fcnmhp.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Dianne Wiles	Position: Development
Organization Business Address: 6817 Norwood Avenue	City: Jacksonville
State: FL	Zip: 32208
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 904-520-7902	Fax: 904-520-7934
Cell: 904-502-6588	Email Address: dwiles@fcnmp.org

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/09 **End:** 09/30/10

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,212,555.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,172,101.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 29 Part Time: 13

Number of Active Volunteers: 100

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 100.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Email and past recipient.

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable): 2007 TNR Surgery Fund & 2009 TNR Surgery Fund

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
Anastasia Regas Stone	Board Member	904-910-6897	Event Sales & Planning	aaregas@yahoo.com
Debbie Fields	President	904-596-7350	Clear Channel Marketing	dfields@bellsouth.net
Emily Magee	Board Member	904-994-1617	Law Office	emagee@foley.com
Joseph A. Strasser	Board Member	904-396-9077	Retired	
Judy Noon	Board Member	904-635-1537	Retired	kennoon@comcast.net
Kelly Delaney	Board Member	904-997-8172	Teacher	kellyadelaney@aol.com
Lee Conway	Board Member	904-923-7736	Retired	mleeconway@aol.com
Matt McAfee	Board member	904-301-1266	Lawyer	mmcafee@northfloridalaw.com
Michele Matrean	Board Member	713-213-1240	CSX Marketing	mmastrean@comcast.net
Pat Delaney	Board Member	904-646-3448	Retired	seawolf82@bellsouth.net
Peter Marsh	Board Member	603-224-1877	Lawyer	pmarshlaw@hotmail.com
Tom Moilanen	Treasurer	904-757-0603	Accountant	tomm.4@comcast.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.

0 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

Our Mission: The mission of First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP) is to eliminate the killing of dogs and cats in our community through free and low-cost spay and neuter programs. First Coast No More Homeless Pets was founded in 2001 when Rick DuCharme, Founder and Executive Director, developed the SpayJax program in response to a request by the City of Jacksonville, Florida for a city funded spay/neuter program. Following SpayJax, SpayNassau was developed along with two other low-cost programs. In 2006 our Trap-Neuter-Return program was developed to offer low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for feral, stray, outdoor and community cats. In August 2008 our Feral Freedom program kicked off, saving approximately 5,000 feral cats in the first year. In April 2009 we moved in and opened our state of the art high volume and high quality spay/neuter and wellness clinic. Prior to our programs, admissions and euthanasia were increasing by as much as 12% annually. We work with over 20 Animal Controls and Rescue Groups. We assist them with transport, special rates for spay and neuter surgeries, heartworm treatment and vaccinations. FCNMHP transports, coordinates transports, and serves the following Florida and Georgia Counties: Liberty County, GA, Duval, Nassau, St. John, Clay, Putnam and Bradford Counties in Florida. Accomplishments since 2002: • Opened one of the largest high volume, high quality spay and neuter clinics in the country. • Facilitated close to 100,000 surgeries since 2002. Increased our surgery volume in the 2009-2010 fiscal year by 45% by completing over 24,000 sterilizations. • Reduced shelter admissions by 34% and euthanasia by 58%. • Saved over 15,000 feral cats from euthanasia through our innovative Feral Freedom Program. • Opened the Jacksonville Pet Food Bank, we have given out over 180,000 lbs of pet food to over 4,500 pets of qualified low-income families since March 2010. Current Programs SpayJax: Free pet spay/neuter surgeries for anyone qualifying as low-income or on government assistance. The City of Jacksonville funds half of the SpayJax budget at \$150,050 and FCNMHP starting in the 2009/2010 fiscal year, doubles the program by funding another \$150,000. Last year FCNMHP completed over 4,000 free SpayJax surgeries! Feral Freedom: As of August 1, 2008, any feral cat brought to Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services will no longer be euthanized at the tax payers' expense. Instead, these cats will be processed through the Feral Freedom Program sponsored by FCNMHP and Best Friends Animal Society. FCNMHP funds half of the program with Best Friends Animal Society funding the other half. Each cat is vaccinated, spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal symbol of a sterilized feral cat), treated for fleas and ear mites and returned to its territory within a matter of few days. First Coast Pet Food Bank: FCNMHP pet Food Bank is here to help keep pets with families. We provide a one month supply of donated cat or dog food for up to 4 dogs and 5 cats per household, for those who qualify. The Pet Food Bank is run by volunteers and donations. FCNMHP does not spend any budgetary dollars on the Pet Food Bank. www.jaxpetfoodbank.org Low-Cost Wellness Clinic/Low-Cost Spay and Neuter: Low-cost spay and neuter, vaccinations, microchipping, flea/heartworm preventatives and a variety of test are available. The Wellness Clinic helps

supplement funding for our vital programs. This service is available to anyone. Zip Code Targeted Programs: The Targeted Zip Code Spay/Neuter Projects focus on zip codes with high Animal Care & Protective Services shelter admissions. Currently the City of Jacksonville is able to offer FREE surgeries for pet dogs and cats and feral/community cats for anyone living in the 32210 zip code. 32210 was selected because they have the highest shelter admission rate in Duval County. This will be a two-year program or when funding runs out. This funding was granted to Animal Care & Protective Services from PetSmart Charities. Free Duval County Pit Bull Surgeries: Thanks to a grant from Animal Farm Foundation, we will be able to perform 500 FREE Pit Bull/Pit Bull mix surgeries for anyone in Duval County. Currently 80% of the dogs euthanized at Animal Care and Protective Services are Bully Breeds. We have completed over 250 of 500 Free Pit Bull surgeries. PetSupermarket Adoption Partnership: First Coast No More Homeless Pets does not shelter animals or do adoptions. All of our efforts are focused on our vital programs to keep animals from entering our shelters. In August of 2010 First The Sweetie Fund: 600 \$20.00 feral/community cat surgeries available to anyone bringing a feral/community cat to FCNMHP in a humane trap for sterilization. This funding is made possible by an anonymous donor and named after his 13 year old feral cat he takes care of. We are currently averaging 460 feral/community cat surgeries a month that clients bring in, NOT INCLUDING Feral Freedom.

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.

We are requesting funding for two spay and neuter programs. Free Pit Bull/Pit Bull mix surgeries and \$20.00 Feral/Community cat surgeries. Free Pit Bull/Pit Bull Mix Surgeries: We are requesting \$17,500.00 to perform 205 free Pit Bull/Pit Bull mix surgeries. Over 80% of the dogs dying in our local shelter are Bully Breeds. Pit Bulls are the most bred dog in the United States. We would like to sterilize as many Bully Breed dogs as possible to stop the breeding cycle and stop them from entering our shelter where they most likely will be euthanized. \$20.00 Feral/Community Cat Surgeries: For the duration of this grant, individuals will be asked to pay just \$20.00 for feral/community cats that they are Trap-Neuter-Returning. With an average surgery cost of \$30.00 for feral/community cats, FCNMHP will subsidize the cost with \$10.00 per surgery. This program will be in addition to our Feral Freedom Program and will help us expand TNR programs here on the First Coast. There is estimated to be over 130,000 feral cats in our community. Having an affordable Feral/Community Cat surgery price always entices the community to trap and take advantage of the low cost option to control the feral cat population crisis. Cameron Moore, FCNMHP Program Director manages all FCNMHP programs. We have the ability to carry out this program by offering surgeries 6 days a week. We track ALL surgeries and statistics and will be able to report our success. We have an active Development Department to advertise these programs via press releases, newsletters, social media and PSA's through our media partners.

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 have several different sterilization programs. They are showcased under the section describing our animal programs. They are ever changing, as our funding sources change and the needs of the community change. We need to have the resources to offer assistance to those who don't qualify under any of our other spay/neuter programs. Solving the feral cat over-population crisis is a huge undertaking and additional funding will expand our TNR programs by offering an affordable feral cat sterilization program. Pit Bull over breeding is becoming a huge burden on our local Animal Control. Through this funding we hope to offer a free service to spay and neuter Pit Bulls, educate the public on the Pit Bull over-population crisis, the importance of spaying and neutering Pit Bulls and adoption of homeless Pit Bulls. Private donations, funds from our low-cost vaccine clinic and fundraising initiatives will continue to be the main source for funding for our programs.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Duval County
Total human population in target area:	820659
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):	248685
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	205165
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	136777

Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	11667
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	10692
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	4573
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	4927
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
n/a	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
The most substantial sources of pet overpopulation are feral/free roaming cats, over breeding of bully breeds, lack of adoption of bully breeds and low-income pet owners not spaying and neutering their pets.	
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?	
Spay and neuter services are generally available through all licensed veterinary clinics with prices varying. There are also several low-cost clinics available to the general public. We are not aware of any other programs in Duval County that offer free or low-cost rates like we do. Our community needs a high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinic to end the overpopulation crisis. With increased funding, we can increase our surgery capacity and in turn continually lower the yearly euthanasia rate until we can call our community a no-kill city.	
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 type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input checked="" 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)?

The goal of this program will be to greatly reduce the growth of the feral, free roaming and community cat population. Every additional surgery provided will eliminate countless numbers of litters. Through our TNR programs we can offer affordable spay/neuter assistance. Our goal is to increase the number of surgeries to capacity, therefore reducing the number of cats that are euthanized and put an end to the breeding cycle. With the funding received through this grant we can perform additional surgeries feral/community cat surgeries to further lower the feral cat population. Over 80% of the dogs that are euthanized at Animal Care & Protective Services are Pit Bulls or Pit Bull mixes. Pit Bull over breeding is a huge problem in Northeast Florida. Sadly, they are the hardest breed to get adopted at our local shelters. With this funding we will be able to spay and neuter 205 Pit Bull/Pit Bull mixes at no charge for anyone living in Duval County, therefore preventing thousands of unwanted births and reducing the euthanasia rate of Pit Bull breeds.

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

Our current monthly surgery average is 2,000 surgeries per month. Our goal is to increase sterilizations to 30,000 surgeries this fiscal year. Expanding our programs will help us reach that goal.

Methods

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

This program is available for caregivers of feral, free roaming and community cat colonies and Pit Bull/Pit Bull dog owners. Our only eligibility requirement is that cats are required to arrive in a humane trap. Humane traps are available for loan at our clinic for a \$100 refundable deposit.

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

FCNMHP heavily promotes all of our programs using every means possible paid and donated. Our main source of referrals is our ongoing donated public service announcements given by Clear Channel Communications; the value of these donations in FY 2009-2010 was in excess of \$195,000. We also utilize paid advertising including television, billboards and printed brochures. Brochures are made available to all local shelters and rescues. All these promotions advertise our spay/neuter hotline, website and programs. We also send out press releases, social media and work with local media to feature our programs. We attend numerous public events each year and distribute program information.

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

This is usually not an issue, but when necessary we have FCNMHP Staff and Volunteers help those in need. We can provide transport via one of our 3 transport vehicles, clients can call and talk to our hotline staff if they are not able to read our brochures, and we are in process of hiring bilingual staff.

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.

Clients will transport the animals to our clinic for sterilization.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We currently have four full time staffed veterinarians, and have several that participate on a rotating basis. Some donate their time and others offer reduced fees.

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	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
Range for Female Cats	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$85.00	\$85.00

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
 Examination Required Optional Not Available
 Fee to Client? No 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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>
Pain Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$5.00"/>
Parasite Medication	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
Testing	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>
Licensing	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
Ear tipping	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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:

All feral, free roaming, and community cats are examined after they are sedated and before surgery. If the cat has injuries that are treatable we will give the necessary treatment while they are sedated for surgery. There is no additional charge for pregnant cats or hernia repair. Rabies and distemper vaccinations are given along with ear mite treatment, flea control, and ear tipping. If requested by the caretaker, we will perform FeLV FIV Snap test, and administer other vaccinations. Feral cats are exempt from the Pet License fee. There is a mandatory \$20.00 Pet License fee for all pets in Duval County. Note: Other treatment fees vary.

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.

As we continue promoting our TNR programs and generate media attention, more and more people are calling to learn about the program and schedule appointments. Some weeks we see double the amount of calls regarding our TNR programs. With the additional funding from this grant we can increase the number of feral cat surgeries which will allow us to add veterinarians to the rotation to perform the additional surgeries. The goal is to increase surgeries from 1,800 to 2,700 per month. We also hope to drastically increase the number of Pit Bull/Pit Bull mix sterilizations, which will prevent un-wanted births and put an end to needless killing of bully breeds in our local shelters.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 750 **Dogs:** 205

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$27.00

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

Any printed material will be paid for by FCNMHP using our marketing budget which is funded by our Veterinary Clinic and general donations.

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:** 08/01/12

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.

We will continue funding the program through fundraising events, private donations, and will continue our relationships with our grantors. Our development team is always searching for new donation relationships and grants for current and new programs to get us closer to a day when there truly are no more homeless pets.

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.

All local media contacts will be sent a press release announcing the grant support and promoting the license plate. We will include a promotion link on our website, Twitter, LinkedIn, and FaceBook pages; we will also distribute literature at our public events. We can also distribute the licesnse plate promotional materials in our high volume clinic. Our transport vehicles also have the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate on them.