

Grant ID: 271

Title of Proposal: SW Florida Spay Neuter
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Gulf Coast Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Gulf Coast Humane Society	Website Address: www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org
Person Submitting Proposal: David Stroud	Position: Executive Director
Organization Business Address: 2010 Arcadia Street	City: Fort Myers
State: Florida	Zip: 33916
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 239-332-0364	Fax: 239-332-8676
Cell:	Email Address: david@gulfcoasthumanesociety.org

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,445,990.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,250,966.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 12 Part Time: 2

Number of Active Volunteers: 442

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 256.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? general awareness of the program

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
Bob Gelles	Treasurer	239-332-0364	Property Management	bobg@schoo.us
Deborah Marvin	Director	239-332-0364	Bank Officer/Branch Manager	deborah.marvin@wellsfargo.com
Dr. Sean Kelly	Director	239-332-0364	College Professor	skelly@fgcu.edu
Dustin Corrente	Director	239-332-0364	Financial Advisor	dustin.m.corrente@ampf.com
Jennifer Galloway	Vice President	239-332-0364	Human Resources	jgalloway@carroll-properties.com
Jill McKee	Director	239-332-0364	Business Owner	jrmckee@aol.com
Karen Donnelly	Director	239-332-0364	Business Owner	caninekaren@aol.com
Lee Meyers	President	239-332-0364	CPA	lmeyers@cagcpa.net
Rebecca Snow-Kosilla	Director	239-332-0364	Senior Account Manager	bsnow@prestigeprinting.com
Robert Cooper	Secretary	239-332-0364	Attorney	racooper@hahnlaw.com
Sara Smith	Director	239-332-0364	Retail Store Manager	petsupermarketsara@yahoo.com
Shawwna Fields	Director	239-332-0364	Company Vice President	simonandshawwna@aol.com
Steve Nelson	Director	239-332-0364	Insurance (ret.)	chachi_nelson@comcast.net
Valheriee Royce	Director	239-332-0364	Business Owner	email@dipidydawg.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

196 **cats** and 691 **dogs** were admitted.

230 **cats** and 669 **dogs** were adopted.

2 **cats** and 1 **dogs** were euthanized.

643 **cats** and 787 **dogs** were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

The Gulf Coast Humane Society provided safe refuge for nearly 900 neglected and abandoned animals in Southwest Florida in 2010. These animals came to GCHS via owner surrender and transfers from other shelters, fosters and rescues. In 2010, GCHS transferred in 423 "at-risk" animals from 15 different shelters and rescue organizations across the state of Florida. It is through this effort that GCHS is taking a lead role in building a coalition of animal welfare organizations across SW Florida to work together on behalf of animal welfare and reducing unwanted pet overpopulation. Gulf Coast Humane Society is a no-kill shelter and will not euthanize an animal for length of time or lack of space.

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.

In addition to a shelter and adoption center, Gulf Coast Humane Society also owns and operates a low-cost veterinary clinic open to the public six days a week. The GCHS Vet Clinic is well known in the community as a competitively-priced source for compassionate care of companion animals. The clinic is staffed by 3 veterinary technicians, 1 full-time veterinarian, 1 part-time veterinarian specializing in spay/neuter, and an additional part-time "relief" veterinarian currently on staff to increase services and appointments available to the public. Our spay/neuter veterinarian, Dr. Elton J. Gissendanner, is well-known and respected for his decades-long commitment to reducing pet overpopulation.

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?

As a private not-for-profit, GCHS relies upon individual donations, bequests, special fundraising events, and grants such as this one to provide the necessary funding for our shelter and clinic. GCHS receives no tax dollars of any kind, nor do we receive any financial assistance from national animal welfare agencies. Our current level of funding allows GCHS to provide two available days each week at the clinic for spay/neuter procedures at competitive, low-cost rates. Additional resources from this grant would allow GCHS to offer more days each week, and offer low-cost, and no-cost, spay/neuters for animal owners experiencing financial hardship.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Lee County
Total human population in target area:	586,908
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	10.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	177851
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	146727
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	97818
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	5,109
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	4,887
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2,605
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1,977
Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.	
The GCHS adoption center and veterinary clinic is located east of downtown Fort Myers in an economically-disadvantaged area. Income levels and property values are lower, and unemployment higher, in the immediate neighborhoods surrounding GCHS than compared to the entire county as a whole.	
Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:	
Last year, Fort Myers and Cape Coral, the two largest municipalities in Lee County, ranked #2 – nationwide – in home foreclosures. Compounding the general lack of awareness of the importance of spay/neuter is the devastating economic toll that local families have endured. For many animal owners, even if they knew the benefits of spay/neuter, they were unable to afford the procedure.	
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?	
In addition to the low-cost spay/neuter services offered by Gulf Coast Humane Society, the local county agency Lee County Domestic Animal Services provides spay/neuter procedures. There are simply too many unwanted stray pets, and not enough resources, to combat the problem. In the example of feral cats, GCHS provided spay/neuter services for Lee County's TNR program through a six-week trial program in 2010 to help with overflow. GCHS would like to expand this ability to help LCDAS if additional resources could be secured.	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pit bull dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feral cats	

- Special spay/neuter event**
 Other

Objectives

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

GCHS will offer 500 no-cost spay-neuter procedures to families showing proof of financial hardship, owners of pit bulls, and community volunteers who bring in feral cats.

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

Although our clinic's fees are low-cost and priced well below private vet practices, our current level of funding does not allow GCHS to provide completely-subsidized, free spay/neuter procedures for the general public. This grant would allow us to provide 500 free spay/neuters for those animals most in need.

Methods

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

Proof of financial assistance (unemployment check, food stamps, etc.) will be required, using the same criteria GCHS has used in the past for our pet food assistance program.

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

GCHS has a very strong marketing and communications program, and enjoys high community awareness. GCHS will promote this program on our weekly television segments on the local CBS and FOX affiliates, through press releases, newsletters, Facebook (nearly 2,000 fans), and e-blasts (more than 2,300 subscribers). We have a strong, dedicated volunteer program with more than 400 volunteers, and a close working relationship with the Lee County Sheriff's Office (through their Cell Dog program), with local post offices (through the Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet project), and with Florida Gulf Coast University. Lastly, no other animal welfare organization in SW Florida has made a stronger commitment to off-site events – last year GCHS participated in 77 events in the community; in 2011 that number will exceed 100. We believe in the credo, "When the community can't come to the shelter, we will take the shelter to the community".

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

Through our extensive volunteer network, we will offer transportation on a case-by-case basis. We are currently in discussions with a local transportation provider to also offer this service as a donation to the community. Other hurdles such as illiteracy and cultural differences are nothing new to GCHS because of the location of our adoption center and veterinary clinic, a relatively poor section of east Fort Myers with neighborhoods featuring large blocks of public housing. Our staff and volunteers are well-trained and well-versed in helping these folks each and every day.

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?

Dr. Elton J. Gissendanner, one of three veterinarians at GCHS and the one specializing in spay/neuter procedures, will add an additional day at GCHS each week to perform these services. GCHS also has relationships with three other "relief vets" who will help when necessary.

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Gulf Coast Humane Society Veterinary Clinic	2010 Arcadia Street	Fort Myers	Florida	33916	239-332-2719	<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	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00

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 \$15.00
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 \$13.00
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 \$8.50
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$8.00
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:

FVRCP \$13, DA2PP \$13, Leuk/Aids \$15, HWT \$15, Strongid \$8.50, Microchip \$20

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 no-cost spay/neuter program will be an important component of all operational and marketing efforts by the Gulf Coast Humane Society. It will be a core service provided to the community, funded by the Florida Animal Fund program. Established in 1947, the Gulf Coast Humane Society is currently enjoying an unprecedented level of local and regional support. The organization is financially sound, and is well-respected by peers in the animal welfare community. This program will be well-received by the community and the local press, in part because of the tremendous relationships and goodwill GCHS has generated in the past year.

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 required rabies vaccination, FVCRP immunization, and any medication deemed necessary by the veterinarian are not included. The animal caretaker will pay for these costs, but GCHS will consider waiving these fees on a case-by-case basis and if approved, GCHS will pay for these costs out of our general operating budget.

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.

Individual donors, corporate sponsors and community partners have generously supported GCHS initiatives when we have demonstrated the need for funding, and more importantly, have shown the positive results from an existing program. With an initial grant from Florida Animal Friend, we can show an example of yet another successful solution towards the reduction of unwanted pet overpopulation. This grant will allow GCHS to create a blueprint that can be used to secure funding for subsidized no-cost spay/neuter programs on a permanent, year-round basis.

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 Gulf Coast Humane Society is currently enjoying unprecedented support in the local community and in the media. GCHS is the featured animal shelter each week on two major network television affiliates in SW Florida. The local newspaper, News-Press Media Group, was an official sponsor for one of GCHS's largest annual signature events, a 5K Run & 1M Fun Walk. The three major retail shopping/entertainment destinations in Lee County – Coconut Point, Bell Tower Shops & Edison Mall – have all designated GCHS as the "official animal shelter partner" for adoptable pets events. GCHS has permanent 7-day-a-week cat adoptions in four Pet Supermarkets in Lee & Collier Counties. GCHS has just been named the official presenting sponsor for all the dog-friendly baseball games by the Fort Myers Miracle, a Class A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. GCHS has an interactive website, a YouTube Channel, and has nearly 2,000 fans on Facebook and more than 2,300 subscribers to our e-newsletter. The promotion of the sale of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plates will be featured in ALL of the initiatives mentioned above.