

Grant ID: 220

**Title of Proposal:** Putnam County No-Cost Spay Neuter Program

**Agency Type:** Municipal

**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00

**Check Payable To:** Putnam County BOCC

Application Information

Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Putnam County Animal Control

**Website Address:** www.pcsu.us

**Person Submitting Proposal:** Kaye Tucker

**Position:** Grants Coordinator

**Organization Business Address:** P. O. Drawer 1578

**City:** Palatka

**State:** Florida

**Zip:** 32178-1578

**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 386-326-2703

**Fax:** 386-326-7213

**Cell:**

**Email Address:** ktucker@putnamsheriff.org

Agency Details

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

**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$55,944.24

**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$61,970.18

**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 7 Part Time: 0

**Number of Active Volunteers:** 2

**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 4.00

**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** FACA

**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):** none

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other

- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other

**List your current board of directors:**

**Applicant Qualifications**

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

2378 cats and 2318 dogs were admitted.

14 cats and 86 dogs were adopted.

2073 cats and 1389 dogs were euthanized.

14 cats and 86 dogs were sterilized.

**Briefly describe your animal programs:**

Putnam County Animal Control is an open admission shelter. We are responsible for all calls concerning domestic animal related issues to include stray dogs, nuisance complaints, bite cases, animal cruelty and/or neglect and animals roaming at large. Animals picked up by the Animal Control Officers or brought into the shelter by local citizens when found, are scanned for microchips. Animals impounded at the shelter are held for a designated period to allow the owner to claim them. If not claimed by the end of the designated period the animal would be available for adoption or transferred to several animal rescue/welfare organizations or euthanized.

**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?**

24%

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

Animals transferred to the animal rescue/welfare organizations are not sterilized, this is about 24% of the animals that come into the shelter. It is mandatory that all other animals adopted through the shelter are sterilized.

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

As part of the animal adoption process, all sterilizations are pre-paid. We keep track of all sterilization vouchers recovered from the participating veterinarians. So even animals too young to be sterilized at the time of their adoption eventually are sterilized.

**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 an Animal Control agency and are the sole provider, other than the City of Palatka Animal Control (one officer) for anything animal related in Putnam County. Nikki Cavanaugh, Animal Control Director, has 10 years of experience working with Animal Control. Our seven Animal Control employees have a combined 47 years of experience working with Animal Control. We make every effort to either send the animals that come to the shelter to one of several rescue organizations we have contact with or to our local humane society. We would like to reduce the number of dogs that we ultimately have to euthanize because they are not adopted or rescues and other shelters have no room to take them. We believe that this spay/neuter program will accomplish that.

**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 no funded programs for sterilization of cats and/or dogs in this County at this time. The State of Florida has designated Putnam County a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern", we have a low tax base and lack financial resources for all but the most essential services. We have agreements with 3 local veterinarians for reduced fees charged for sterilization of animals adopted from the shelter with mandatory sterilization of animals adopted from the shelter paid by the adopter. Many of our County's residents are classified low income and/or on fixed incomes and

cannot afford the fees to adopt and spay and neuter the animals even at the reduced rate. Because of this, a large number of dogs and cats in our shelter are euthanized if we cannot find a rescue to take them. Additionally, because our low-income residents cannot afford the cost of spaying and neutering their dogs, many litters of unwanted puppies are born, increasing the unwanted dog population in our county. With this spay-neuter grant we hope to break this cycle and reduce the number of dogs that come to the shelter and are ultimately euthanized.

**Target Population**

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):</b>	Putnam County
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	72893
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	16.2
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	22089
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	18224
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	12149
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2378
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2318
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2073
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	1389
<b>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.</b>	
The target area estimated animal populations noted above seem reasonable with the exception of feral cat numbers which may be lower.	
<b>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:</b>	
According to American Fact Finder, over 16.2 % of our County's residents are classified as living below the poverty level and cannot afford the cost of spaying and neutering their pets. Spaying and neutering fees at the local veterinary clinics are more than \$100.00 per animal. Because of this, many litters of unwanted animals are born, increasing the unwanted animal populations in our county.	
<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>	
Putnam County Humane Society offers a low-cost spay/neuter program for dogs adopted from their shelter. Animals to be spayed or neutered are transported by the Humane Society to a veterinary clinic about 75 miles away in Jacksonville to have the service performed. Fees for this service begin at \$35.00 for neutering small dogs and range up to \$80 for spaying dogs over 100 lbs; currently there is about a 2-month waiting list to have the surgery performed. Putnam County Animal Control has an agreement with three local veterinary clinics to perform low cost spaying and neutering of dogs that are adopted from the Putnam County Animal Shelter; dogs are neutered for \$45 and spayed for \$55. The average cost of spaying and neutering dogs at the local veterinary clinics in this county is well over \$100 per animal. Many of our County's residents are classified low income and cannot afford the fees to adopt and spay/neuter the animals even at the reduced rates so they get the "free" puppies and dogs and risk their pets having unwanted litters.	

**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)?**

Show a 25% reduction in puppy and dog intake and at least a 20% reduction in dog euthanasia in the Putnam County Animal Control shelter in the next two years.

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

This program will increase the baseline sterilization surgeries by adding 480 more animals sterilized to the current dog population in this county. This would not be possible due to the low-income status of their owners.

**Methods**

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

Participants must provide proof of residency such as a Drivers License and one utility bill in their name and proof of annual income such as their most recent tax return or proof of assistance such as Social Security, Medicaid, etc. Family incomes must be within these set limits: Family Size Income Limit 1 29,095 2 33,220 3 37,400 4 41,525 5 44,880 6 48,180 7 51,535 8 54,835 Additionally, every animal sterilized must be up to date on vaccinations including rabies vaccination. Vaccination costs would have to be paid by the animal owner.

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

If the project is funded, we will contact the local newspaper and ask them to do an article on the program; additionally we will contact the two local radio stations and ask them to promote the program. We will also do flyers and have them available at various places around the county, additionally the Animal Control Officers could distribute the flyers to dog owners. We will also promote the program on both the County's website and the Sheriff's Office website.

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

Putnam County Animal Control Officers could assist with transportation in case of elderly or handicapped dog owners, flyers will be printed in Spanish and English; promotion on the local radio stations could alleviate illiteracy problems.

**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.**

Only Animal Control Officers would transport the animals in the County Animal Control vehicles and only if the dog owners are elderly or handicapped.

**Veterinary Services**

## Objectives

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

Dr. Perry Smith with Animal Health Center has agreed to be the lead veterinarian for the project, his collaboration letter is attached.

### Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Animal Health Center	354 South U.S. Hwy 17	East Palatka	Florida	32131	386-328-0327	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Animal Medical Clinic	3301 Crill Avenue	Palatka	Florida	32177	386-328-4613	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crill and Palm Veterinary Hospital	3201 Crill Avenue	Palatka	Florida	32177	386-328-9616	<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	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Female Cats	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$15.00
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$17.00
<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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 cover all surgery costs, neutering fees are \$45.00, spaying fees are \$55.00. If the dog is not current on their rabies or bordetella vaccinations the owner will be responsible for the costs of these vaccinations at a reduced rate. Licensing will be required, however, as a further incentive for the program, the County has agreed to waive the \$5.00 fee for licensing for this program.

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

This will be a voucher program. Once residency and income are confirmed the dog owner will be given a voucher to take to the participating veterinarian. After the surgery is performed, the veterinarian will submit the voucher to the sheriff's office and a check will be issued to the veterinarian from grant funds.

## Other Information

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

We are always looking for ways to reduce the number of dogs we have to euthanize in our animal shelter. Previously, our only options were finding adoptive families, rescues or other no-kill facilities that would be willing to take the dogs. We were very excited to find this program that could provide sterilization services for dogs in our county. We are convinced that providing no cost sterilizations to 480 dogs in this county will reduce the number of unwanted puppies that are born that ultimately grow up, have more puppies and wind up in our shelter and have to be euthanized.

## Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

**Cats:** 0 **Dogs:** 480

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$53.00

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

If the dog to be sterilized is not up to date on their vaccinations, the dog owner will be responsible for this cost. These vaccinations will be given at a reduced rate. No other expenses other than sterilization will come from the grant money, all administrative fees, etc., will be paid by Putnam County Sheriff's Office Animal Control from their annual 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:** 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.**

If this program proves as successful as we anticipate that it will be; we will petition our Board of County Commission to continue with this program, starting with a small amount budgeted each year for a spay/neuter program. The anticipated savings from the Animal Control budget for euthanasia costs because of this grant could be shifted to a Spay/Neuter program. We will encourage local organizations to promote and donate to the program, increasing the number of no-cost sterilizations performed each year.

## 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 will use the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate logo on all flyers, vouchers, newsletters related to our project. In every press release, we will acknowledge that the funds are provided from the sale of the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter license plates and promote the sale of the specialty license plates. We can provide a link to the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate website from our website and any online story as well.