

Grant ID: 275

Title of Proposal: Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Suncoast Humane Society, Inc.

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Suncoast Humane Society, Inc.	Website Address: www.humane.org
Person Submitting Proposal: Valerie Misa-Hoffmann	Position: Marketing and Development Manager
Organization Business Address: 6781 San Casa Drive	City: Englewood
State: FL	Zip: 34224
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 941-474-7884	Fax:
Cell:	Email Address: vhoffmann@humane.org

Agency Details

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

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,534,831.43

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,409,346.54

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 25 Part Time: 5

Number of Active Volunteers: 184

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 647.78

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Other Animal Welfare Organizations

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
David Walker	President	941-662-0848	Retired CPA	walkersdj@yahoo.com
Diane O'Driscoll	Member at Large	941-224-7208	Finance Director	di_gerry@comcast.net
Doris Bishop	Member at Large	941-964-0473	Retired Speech Therapist	squeakiesmom@gmail.com
Estelle Dichazi	Secretary	941-475-8310	Realtor	estelledichazi@gmail.com
Nancy Sholley	Member at Large	941-964-2414	Retired	psholley@comcast.net
Thomas Carlos	Member at Large	941-474-8881	Veterinarian	englewoodanimalhealth@verizon.net
Wendy Jankoski	Vice President	(941) 475-5311	President, Wealth Architects	Passerd@aol.com
William "Steve" Dudley	Treasurer	941-460-8897	CPA Healthcare Consultant	steve@wsdudley.com

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

1565 **cats and** 1056 **dogs were admitted.**
 463 **cats and** 509 **dogs were adopted.**
 972 cats and 422 dogs were euthanized.
 697 cats and 882 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

Suncoast Humane Society offers a variety of programs and services to ensure the wellbeing and humane treatment of animals. These include: Foster Care, where we place sick or younger animals into suitable foster homes who can take care of their medical and behavioral needs until they are deemed suitable for adoption; Humane Education and Outreach, We have a variety programs including Pet Therapy, Critter Camp, Critters in the Classroom and Doggie Tales, designed to encourage and improve children's reading skills. We also offer offsite adoptions, a vibrant volunteer program and lost and found services. In response to the current financial climate, we offer low-cost preventive care programs, targeted to assist low-income families maintain the necessary vaccinations and treatments for their pets. We have also introduced the pet pantry, where we have partnered with church food pantries and meals on wheels to deliver pet food to families who are struggling.

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.

Established in 1971, Suncoast Humane Society exists to reduce the number of homeless animals and improve the quality of life. We are an open admission animal care center with a coverage area of 3 counties and roughly 400 square miles. The support and confidence of the community has continued to grow as a need for additional services is recognized, Suncoast Humane Society has successfully implemented the necessary programs to meet this need. The program will be overseen by Executive Director, Phil Snyder and implemented by Director of Operations, Jennifer Shallow. Phil Snyder, has over forty years' experience in the animal care and control field. This includes fifteen years as Director of two regional offices of the Humane Society of the United States. He has also served as Executive Director of seven local humane societies and animal control organizations. Skilled in organization and program development in all areas of animal sheltering, Phil Snyder is especially qualified and experienced in the implementation and development of new programs, including low/no-cost spay/neuter programs. Jennifer Shallow has worked in the animal care field for the past 11 years; the past year as Director of Operations at Suncoast. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and Criminal Justice. She came to Suncoast Humane Society from a 24-Hour Emergency Animal Care Facility in Chicago, where she worked along side 13 Veterinarians. In addition to working directly with animals, she has done bookkeeping and accounting for animal rescues.

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?

Since the inception of our on-site surgery suite, we have performed more than 3,500 surgeries, just in the past two years. There is a growing demand for our low-cost spay/neuter services and affordable preventive veterinary care. We currently have a six-week waiting list for our low-cost spay/neuter program and we have just recently added a second day to our vaccination clinic each week. The veterinary and administrative costs to operate these programs are over \$230,000 annually. Although a small amount is recovered through fees, we must raise approximately \$85,000 through grants and individual donations.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.):	Charlotte County, Florida
Total human population in target area:	156,952
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	47562
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	39238
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	26159
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Not known
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Not known
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Not known
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	Not known

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

The numbers calculated above are based on Charlotte County. We cover all of Charlotte, but also cover the southern portion of Sarasota County and the Northwestern portion of Lee County.

Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:

The lack of affordable resources coupled with the lack of education in responsible pet ownership is the greatest source of cat and dog overpopulation in the area.

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?

Outside of private veterinarian clinics, we are only aware of Animal Rescue Coalition who offer once a month mobile spay/neuter services at a reduced cost to the public in portions of our target area. Suncoast Humane Society has a coverage area of 400 square miles and each year, we take in more than 3,000 animals. If all area animal shelters offered affordable spay/neuter services, it would still unfortunately be many years before the communities' needs are adequately met. The service area of Suncoast Humane Society does not interfere with the service area of Animal Rescue Coalition.

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)?

The grant request will assist in funding the expansion of our spay/neuter program. In 2009, we performed 1,001 surgeries, while we performed 1,591 surgeries in 2010. Our waiting list for spay/netuer surgery is 6-weeks, deposite performing surgeries on 4 out of 5 days each week. We hope to increase this number by 10% in 2011. Additional funding will allow us to perform more surgeries as all surgeries are subsidized by Foundations and private donations since the publics contribution does not cover the entire cost.

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

Additional funding will allow us to accomodate more individuals who need to utilize our services. As we depend on foundations, private donations and income from our vaccination clinic to offset the costs of low-cost spay/netuer, we lack the funding to increase our capacity much more.

Methods

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

Our low-cost spay/neuter program is need-based and eligibility is based on income, offering the services at a minimal cost (\$25) to the residents at or below the 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. Proof of Income is required. We also offer affordable spay/neuter surgeries, which are 50%-75% less than surgeries offered by private veterinarians.

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

Although the program has been filled to capacity with very little promotion, we plan to advertise utilizing multiple media channels once the program expands. We currently advertise the programs and services on our Web site, at events, through brochures, newsletters and e-newsletters.

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

Suncoast Humane Society has a van, which upon request, can be used to transport individual animals to the animal care center if the resident does not have access to transportation. We work with area Social Services and the Homeless Coalition as well as Meals on Wheels and Church Food Banks to distribute information about our programs and services. In which case we are faced with cultural hurdles, 15% of our staff are bi-lingual.

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.

Although it is expected that the transportation of the animals will be provided by the client 99% of the time, Suncoast Humane Society staff or trained volunteers may pick-up animals from residents with disabilities and residents with no access to transportation. The vehicle is a 2006 Ford Van which has been specially equipped for the transportation of animals. Staff and volunteers are thoroughly trained and are insured as drivers and covered under Suncoast Humane Society's liability insurance.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

We have a full-time contracted veterinarian on staff.

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	\$47.50	\$18.00	\$65.50
Range for Female Cats	\$60.00	\$25.00	\$85.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$52.50	\$18.00	\$70.50
Range for Female Dogs	\$65.00	\$25.00	\$90.00

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 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 type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$14.00
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 \$12.00
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$10.00
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:

Spay/Neuter Surgeries Feline Spay ranges from 50-70 Feline Neuter 25-50 Canine Spay 50-80 Canine Neuter 25-65 We offer microchipping, fecal, heartworm and FELV/FIV testing, Bordatella, FVRCP and Rabies Vaccinations along with preventive care medications at a reduced cost for flea/tick prevention and heartworm prevention.

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.

Suncoast Humane Society is committed to helping control the pet population within our community. We have been successful with the implementation of our low-cost spay/neuter program in addition to adding a preventive care clinic to meet the needs of our community. With a waiting list of 6-weeks, it is clear that our services are in great demand. Funding from Gulf Coast Community Foundation afforded us the ability to hire a full-time veterinarian while other grant funding has helped defray some program costs. The implementation of the preventive care clinic has provided income to offset the costs of the spay/neuter program, however the rest must be funded by foundations and private donations. Since early 2009, donations and foundation giving has decreased due to the economy while the demand for our services has increased. Your support will help us continue to serve a critical need throughout Southwest Florida.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 836 **Dogs:** 940

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$21.50

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

This grant will contribute to the direct program cost of sterilization surgery. Other funding is being sought for expenses, vehicle costs, and administrative costs.

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.

We have diversified our funding sources so as not to rely on any one source for funding. We have implemented a planned giving program to increase long-term donations as well as adding more fundraising events along with bi-annual appeals. About 25% of our budget comes from revenue generated by three Thrift Stores located throughout our coverage area. We are hopeful that through expanding our programs and preventive care clinic, we can continue to increase revenue to offset the costs of this important community service.

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.

Since we were first awarded this grant in 2009, we have been promoting the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate through various ways, such as being prominent on the front page of our Web site (still current), brochures in our lobby as well as promoting the plate through our newsletter and e-newsletter. We have several staff and volunteers who have had the plate for two years.