

## **Summarize the Project or Program**

Fresno County Department of Public Health, in partnership with community-based organization(s), will coordinate a low-cost spay and neuter pilot project for cats and dogs in the small communities and unincorporated areas in Fresno County. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will provide project oversight, coordinate with the selected community-based organization(s) and compile outcomes data.

This additional funding will be utilized by the County of Fresno to supplement the activities of our Animal Control Services vendor, Fresno Humane Animal Services (FHAS). The lack of affordable spay/neuter services for our small communities and unincorporated areas has created an over population of cats and dogs. This crisis is countywide and needs to be addressed by multiple avenues so that this issue may be addressed. The over population of cats and dogs in these communities and unincorporated areas is problematic since it creates numerous issues such as copious amounts of dogs at large and many homeless pets. The over population of animals puts an extreme amount of pressure on the services that can be provided by our Animal Control vendor, FHAS, and the Fresno County Animal Shelter that must maintain crucial space for sick and injured animals.

### The Objective

- Need #1: Reduce pet overpopulation.
- Need #2: Spay and neuter services to residents of rural County communities and unincorporated areas.
- Need #3: Affordable rabies vaccinations.

### The Opportunity

- Goal #1: Offer low-cost spay and neuter services to residents of rural communities and unincorporated areas of the County.
- Goal #2: Increase access to spay and neuter services for residents of rural County communities and unincorporated areas.
- Goal #3: Provide low-cost rabies vaccines.

### The Solution

- Recommendation #1: Coordinate with a community-based organization(s) to fulfill project goals, with DPH's oversight.
- Recommendation #2: The community-based organization(s) will be required to arrange transportation for rural County residents who are unable to transport their pet to and from the veterinarian's office – OR – subcontract with veterinarians in rural County communities.
- Recommendation #3: Rabies vaccinations will be administered during the spay or neuter visit for dogs at least 4 months of age and cats at least 3 months of age.

The following deliverables are anticipated to execute this project successfully:

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Shelter Assistance Program Grant Application for Fresno County

Establish an agreement with community-based organization(s).  
Data Collection & outcomes measures  
Forms  
Compose and execute agreement(s).  
Marketing and Outreach  
Appointments for services  
Coordination with veterinarians  
Transportation  
Invoicing and payment  
Project evaluation

**What are the existing spay/neuter resources at your shelter? Describe how your request increases capacity for spay/neuter in your community or region and explain who qualifies for services, cost of services and frequency.**

The County of Fresno contracts with Fresno Humane Animal Services (FHAS) to provide Animal Control Services and animal sheltering. The contract provides \$50,000.00 per year for spay and neuter services. FHAS has been fortunate to obtain several grants to supplement the contracted funding amounts; however, the need for low cost spay/neuter services far exceeds the amount of financial resources available.

The requested funding amount for the County of Fresno will greatly enhance the spay/neuter financial assistance that will be made available to our small communities and unincorporated areas where many low-income residents live. Transportation to veterinary facilities for these animals will also be offered by community-based organization(s) which will provide this much-needed assistance for rural communities and unincorporated areas that do not have local veterinary services. The transportation of pets from each rural community and other unincorporated areas will be offered at a minimum of one time per month as determined by need. The projected cost for low-income residents for feline spay/neuter services is \$20.00 and \$40.00 for canine spay/neuter services.

**What partner/stakeholders are you working with or have you identified (if a new program) Optional**

We hope to collaborate with the Kirkland Foundation who affiliates with Fresno TNR, Cat House on the Kings, Dogwood Animal Rescue, PetSmart Charities, Petco Foundation, and the Fresno Chafee Zoo.

**What are your proposed or estimated outcomes (number of surgeries, number of trainings. Etc.)?**

We propose to Spay/neuter and vaccinate for rabies 6,660 felines and 3504 canines within a two-year time frame.

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**What is your proposed plan for sustainability beyond the requested funding?**

Fresno county plans to establish working relationships with local nonprofit organizations and veterinary practices so that high volume, low cost spay/neuter services for rural County communities and unincorporated areas is readily available.

We will also continue to explore additional funding sources so that financial assistance for County communities and unincorporated areas may be maintained and increased as the cost for these services will most likely escalate.