HUMANE SOCIETY
VERO BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Open Door. Open Heart.

The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County (HSVB) is one of our community's oldest nonprofit organizations. Founded in 1953, HSVB serves pets and people as our county's only open-admission shelter. HSVB provides a myriad of services including adoption, lost and found, disaster relief, a wellness clinic, animal protection, animal advocacy and community education. Our shelter cares for more than 7,000 animals annually both at our facility and through field work.

HSVB maintains a strong commitment to keeping pets and people together. We believe pet retention is a critical component of our animal protection efforts and recognize the need to help pet parents in underserved communities as well as those individuals facing financial hardship.

The Humane Society of the U.S. estimates that **77% of pets living in underserved communities have never seen a veterinarian** and **87% are not spayed or neutered**. To address this issue, in 2013 HSVB created a pilot animal safety-net "Peticaid" program to prevent the surrender of medically-challenged animals by assisting residents in underserved communities and those individuals experiencing financial hardship. A review of our statistics showed that the majority of pets entering our Peticaid program had chronic but treatable conditions. With Peticaid assistance, **91% were happy, healthy and retained in their homes after one year**. Expanding Peticaid services will allow us to keep a greater number of animals healthy and with the people who love them.

A grant of up to approximately $57,000 (see attached schedule of estimated expected services) will allow the Humane Society to grow our Peticaid program so that we can offer wellness services to approximately 580 animals whose pet parents face financial hardship, in locations including our shelter's Animal Wellness Clinic and in the field in our county's underserved communities of Fellsmere, Gifford, South County and unincorporated areas of Indian River County. The number of animals assisted is based upon the average number of animals receiving care at our Fellsmere public clinic, animals seen through our World Rabies Day vaccination program, animals cared for in our shelter's Animal Wellness Clinic and a projected number of animals expected when our shelter begins holding clinics in the southern part of our county this fall. This grant shows the direct costs to the shelter and will be used to treat sick pets, keep pets healthy and keep pets and people together. The following services will be offered at either the shelter's clinic or at off-site locations:

Pet examinations and treatment of chronic, non-life-threatening conditions such as chronic skin, ear and eye infections and allergies.
Chronic skin, ear and eye allergies, bacterial and fungal infections and parasites plague many Florida dogs and cats, resulting in continued discomfort, itching and irritation that can lead to infection. Our veterinary team will provide basic testing, medications and client education so that pet parents can treat their animals at home.

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Medically necessary or life-saving surgical/medical procedures
Some of our community's animals suffer from injuries or tumors that may need to be removed for biopsy. Recently, in the span of one week, our clinic assisted two undeserved clients: one with repairing their dog's anterior cruciate ligament (knee ligament) and another whose dog required cherry eye removal.

Heartworm testing
Heartworm is a potentially lethal condition prevalent in Florida dogs due to the prevalence of mosquitos and requires year-round prevention. HSVB could provide inexpensive, rapid heartworm antigen testing to dogs living in underserved communities.

Flea, Tick and Heartworm Preventative
Flea and heartworm preventative will allow us to keep dogs and cats parasite-free. We will offer preventative to our most financially-challenged pet parents for one year.

Treatment of heartworm-positive animals
We anticipate 10% of the dogs tested will be heartworm positive and treatment can range in cost from $300-$400 per dog, depending upon the dog's weight. Based on an average of $350 per patient, Peticaid dogs will be treated for heartworm using a standard immiticide (heartworm medication) and the antibiotic Doxycycline.

Free dental cleanings, radiographs and **extractions**
Approximately 5% of the animals seen through our Peticaid program have some form of dental disease and require dental cleaning and extractions. Dental radiographs, cleaning and extractions would allow us to help animals who have periodontal disease, dead teeth and abscesses by providing a full dental exam, cleaning under the gum line, scaling and polishing the teeth, extracting teeth when necessary, and providing anesthesia as well as pain medications and antibiotics when necessary.

Bloodwork
Our clinic has seen that some of the animals coming from underserved communities require extensive bloodwork, especially older animals who must undergo sterilization, dental prophylaxis and/or other surgical procedures. We estimate that 5% of the animals seen will need additional bloodwork performed at an outside laboratory so that our veterinary team can provide an effective course of treatment. Due to our small staff and limited testing equipment, the most cost-effective option for our shelter is sending bloodwork to Antech Laboratories.

Core vaccinations (rabies, distemper, parvovirus)
Vaccinations are an important component of animal health. Over the last several years Indian River County has experienced outbreaks of rabies, parvovirus and canine distemper. Funding will allow the shelter to provide vaccinations to those animals who are most in need and most at risk. Based on historical data, large number of animals will be seen through our annual World Rabies Day drive-through vaccination clinic.

Supplemental veterinary support for off-site animal wellness outreach programs
Sufficient staffing will allow us to serve a wider area. Providing 24 off-site events lasting two hours each will permit us to care for more animals but will require additional veterinary support.

Microchips and ID Tags

While a large percentage of the unidentified pets entering our shelter come from underserved communities, pet identification for local seniors facing financial hardship is also important because, for instance, animals may slip out of the house when caretakers come to the home**.** Microchipping makes it possible for HSVB to easily reunite lost pets with their families. In addition to microchips, HSVB has had a longstanding free pet ID tag program which provides pet parents with stainless steel tags that have a unique ID number, the shelter's 24-hour paging service and say "I AM LOST." These tags are available to any pet parent regardless of income or place of residency.

Collars and small pet carriers

Many pets coming from underserved communities lack visible identification. The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County currently offers free stainless steel pet identification tags to all pet parents. Collars for dogs and cats would allow us to return a greater number of lost pets to their families. Many pet parents facing financial hardship also lack pet carriers for their cats and other small animals. We have seen animals brought to the shelter in open boxes, pillow cases and shopping bags. Cardboard carriers will keep smaller pets safe, are durable and inexpensive.

Community Profiles

Fellsmere – Fellsmere is a rural community with a population of 5,439 and is comprised of a large migrant worker population. Statistics for 2015 indicate 45.1% of Fellsmere's population live below the poverty line. It is estimated that Fellsmere has a pet population comprised of 1,222 owned dogs and 1,335 owned cats based upon a formula provided by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

There are no veterinary hospitals in Fellsmere and limited transportation. Currently the only veterinary services available to Fellsmere animals is through HSVB's monthly onsite clinic, which provides core vaccinations, heartworm testing and prevention, flea/tick prevention and microchipping. We currently see 20-30 dogs and cats monthly and recently opened a fixed location in a building we share with a local nonprofit pet food bank and literacy program. Because we have the greatest presence in this area, we anticipate seeing **300 dogs and cats annually from Fellsmere**.

Gifford – Gifford is a low-income area of Indian River County with no veterinary hospitals and limited transportation. Statistics for 2015 indicate 31.3% of Gifford's 9,500 residents live below the poverty line. There are approximately 2,124 owned dogs and 2,331 owned cats based upon the AVMA formula. We are just beginning stronger outreach efforts in Gifford. Therefore we anticipate initially seeing a total of **60 dogs and cats** but hope to steadily grow this number as we establish a greater presence in the community.

South County/Florida Ridge – Indian River County's southern communities are comprised of South Vero and Florida Ridge. South Vero has a population of 23,092 with an estimated 5,187 dogs and 5,666 cats while Florida Ridge's population is 18,164 with 4,080 owned dogs and 4,457 owned cats according to the AVMA formula. Both communities have limited veterinary services. Statistics from 2015 indicate that 18.2% of South Vero's residents and 16.2% of Florida Ridge's residents live below the poverty line. Both areas have a high rate of senior citizen residents and limited veterinary services. South County is also a new outreach location for HSVB. However, we anticipate helping **approximately 150 South County/Florida Ridge animals** from disadvantaged homes.

We do not have AVMA statistics for the unicorporated areas of Indian River County however we anticipate seeing **approximately 70 animals** from this area.

Partnerships

HSVB has identified several partner organizations including the Senior Resource Association (SRA), For the Love of Senior Paws Pet Food Bank and United Against Poverty, Indian River County and Treasure Coast Community Health to identify pet parents in need.

HSVB Staff and Volunteers

HSVB's animal care staff includes two veterinarians, three veterinary nurses and multiple highly-trained animal care technicians. Many of the shelter's staff have extensive training in disaster relief and have assisted in providing emergency care for animals after natural disasters that often impact Florida. In addition to responding to cases involving animal neglect and cruelty, staff and volunteers deployed to Bartow, Florida after Hurricane Charley in 2004, Hattiesburg, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Joplin, Missouri after the city was impacted by a tornado in 2011.

Data Collection

HSVB will collect, analyze and provide on a monthly basis

- **Data** pertaining to each animal's medical history
- **Cost** per animal for one year
- **Retention** in the home after one year

Grant Financial Worksheet
Estimated Service Schedule

Service	Cost per animal	Anticipated Number of Treatments	Subtotal
TREATMENT – CHRONIC CONDITIONS - eye, ear or skin conditions or allergies – with medications sent home	$100	50	$5,000
LIFESAVING/NECESSARY SURGERIES and procedures (surgical repairs, amputations, biopsies, excisions)	$300	20	$6,000
HEARTWORM TESTING	$2.50	378	$945
HEARTWORM/FLEA/TICK PREVENTATIVE Combination (Trifexis) ($13 per pill x 12 months based upon the largest weight)	$156	50	$7,800
TREATMENT FOR HEARTWORM POSITIVE DOGS	$350	37	$12,950
DENTAL EXTRACTIONS AND CLEANING (to include two extractions)	$195	26	$5,070
BLOOD WORK	$64.30	26	$1,672
SUPPLEMENTAL VETERINARY SUPPORT FOR OFF-SITE PETICAID/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (1 Veterinarian)	$250	24 Events per year $250 per event	$6,000
SUPPLEMENTAL VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SUPPORT FOR OFF-SITE PETICAID/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (2 Technicians at 2 hours per event with 24 events.	$15.50	96 hours	$1,488
CANINE CORE VACCINATIONS (Rabies, Distemper and Parvovirus) *Rabies $2 per vaccine *Distemper, canine influenza and parvovius $11 per vaccine	$13	378	$4,914
FELINE CORE VACCINATIONS *Rabies $2 per vaccine Feline Distemper/rhinotracheitis $5	$7	202	$1,414
PET ID – MICROCHIPS **(ID Tags already provided by HSVB free of charge)**	$5	580	$2,900
DOG AND CAT COLLARS (Cost is an average between $2.50-$3.50 dependent upon species and animal size)	$3	150	$450
CARDBOARD CAT/PET CARRIERS	$6	50	$300
		TOTAL	**$56,903**