



July 25, 2014

The Honorable Kristin Dozier
Commissioner, Leon County
301 South Monroe Street
Fifth Floor
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Funding Request, Be the Solution, Inc.

Commissioner Dozier,

I write to you today to request that the Leon County Commission strongly consider including funding for Be the Solution, Inc., in the Leon County Budget for 2014-2015.

Be the Solution, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2007 to provide education to the Tallahassee community about the importance of pet overpopulation prevention and financial assistance to residents for spay and neuter surgeries. Our funding is derived from a variety of sources, including private grants and public donations, and the vast majority of our funds, approximately 83%, are spent directly on preventive surgeries. As a testament to our effective operation and low administrative costs, the Community Foundation has approved us as a charitable organization for the receipt of matching funds.

Since its inception, Be the Solution has helped fund over 10,041 surgeries and drastically reduced both the number of animals brought into the shelter and the numbers of animals euthanized in Leon County. <see included attachment> Our efforts have been successful in lowering the euthanasia rate from a high in 2009 of 57% to a current rate of 41%. In fact, this success helped the City of Tallahassee be selected by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) as a targeted community for the investment of substantial assets with the ultimate goal of making Tallahassee a "no-kill community."

A requirement to maintain this funding and resources from the ASPCA was not met: the passage of a "trap and release" ordinance. A "trap and release" ordinance permits individuals to trap a feral cat, provide a spay or neuter surgery, and release it back into the wild. This provides residents with an incentive to obtain these

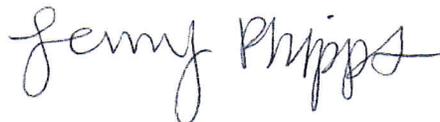
surgeries, thus curbing the creation of more feral litters and decreasing the overpopulation problem. While efforts were made to pass a "trap and release" ordinance, it was ultimately voted down.

The failure to institute a "trap and release" ordinance and continuation of the current policy was partly responsible for ASPCA reducing the funding provided to Be the Solution for the upcoming fiscal year. Although Be the Solution can still apply for funding with the ASPCA through its State Grants Department, the amounts given are a fraction of the prior grants previously awarded to Be the Solution. Without additional financial resources, this loss of funding will drastically reduce the community education and number of services that we can provide to Tallahassee.

The financial support of the City of Tallahassee and Leon County is critical if we are to continue building upon our successes in reducing the euthanasia rate, lowering the intake into the shelter, and helping eliminate the pet overpopulation problem. Our total budget shortfall is approximately \$65,000. As our request for funding is to the City and the County, we would hope the budget shortfall could be funded proportionally to the existing funding provided to the shelter, i.e. 55% from the City of Tallahassee and 45% from Leon County.

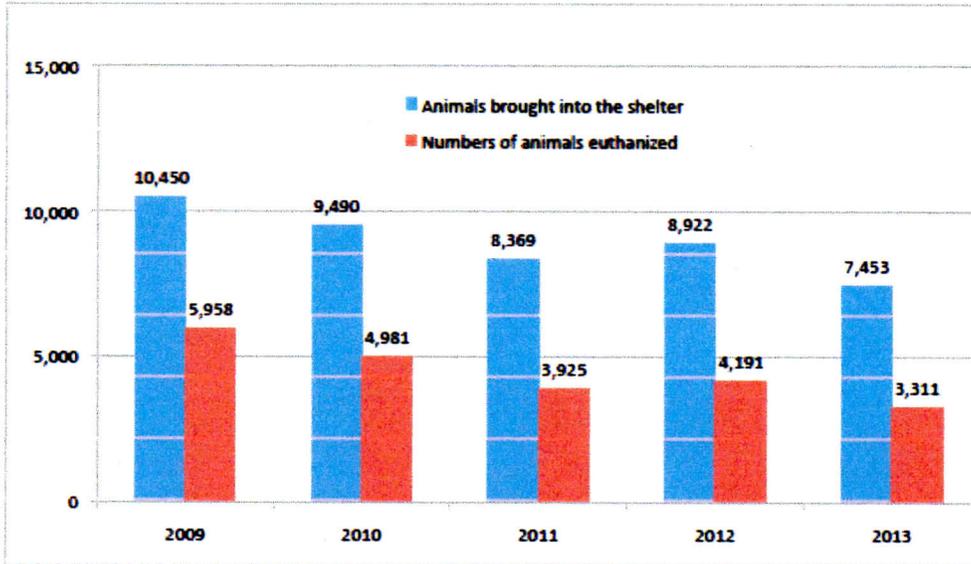
We are grateful for the support the County Commission has shown in the past, and we hope that you will continue your partnership with our organization in our time of need.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerry Phipps". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Gerry Phipps
President,
Be the Solution, Inc.

Shelter Intakes vs. Euthanasia



BTS Spays and Neuters

