

Animals Surrendered in Cruelty Case

August 31, 2009, Fort Myers, FL – The owner of 15 dogs and one cat confiscated for cruelty Wednesday, August 26, 2009 has surrendered the animals to Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS). Charles Sharp who resided at 13308 Fourth Street in Fort Myers Shores claimed ownership of 15 of the animals. Wayne Wilson who also resided at the address claimed one of the dogs.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office obtained a search warrant to enter the home and found the animals living in extreme amounts of feces and waste. The dogs suffered from skin conditions as a result of their unsanitary living conditions and a severe tick infestation in the home. Several were also malnourished. The Building Inspector's Office has condemned the home and found it to be a dangerous building, unfit for human occupancy.

LCDAS has responded to numerous calls in the past from complaints about the stench coming from the home which is owned by Robert Tracey. Tracey currently has previous animal cruelty charges pending from April 2008. He was not at home at the time the animals were confiscated on August 26.

Several of the dogs will be available for adoption at Animal Services and the rest are being transferred to rescue organizations or foster care for extended medical treatment and care. Pets fostered by volunteers for LCDAS are assisted through the Animal Care Trust Fund which pays for medical treatment until the animal is ready for adoption.

Anyone who would like to help these and other pets suffering from abuse and neglect may send donations to Animal Care Trust Fund, c/o Lee County Domestic Animal Services, 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33912. Information about fostering pets is available at www.LeeLostPets.com or at (239) 533-7387 (LEE-PETS).