

## **Cruelty Case Puppy Needs New Home: Lee County Domestic Animal Services Saves Puppy from Death**

Fort Myers, Florida, 7/24/09—On July 17, 2009 an emaciated puppy near death was brought to Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS). The stray puppy had visible ribs and vertebrae protruding and could barely stand from lack of food and water. Now known as Farrah, the puppy was given sustenance and examined by the LCDAS staff veterinarian to determine a course of treatment to save her life.

Farrah, a five-1/2 month old Doberman mix, has already begun to gain weight but still only weighs 12 lbs. Continued care will be needed for a full recovery. The Animal Care Trust Fund, established through LCDAS to assist homeless pets in Lee County, will provide for Farrah's treatment. All she needs now is a new home to ensure a better life.

LCDAS is asking that anyone with information regarding Farrah's owner(s) contact the agency at 239-533-7387. According to Lee County Ordinance 09-20 and Florida State Statute it is unlawful for any owner or agent to fail to provide adequate, food, water, shelter, veterinary care, or otherwise neglect an animal. Failure to do so is punishable by maximum of \$500 for a civil infraction and a maximum of \$5,000, jail time, or both for a misdemeanor conviction.

Even with the current difficult economic conditions facing our community, no animal needs to starve, be abandoned or go without proper veterinary care. LCDAS offers programs and services through the Animal Care Trust Fund to assist financially disadvantaged pet owners. Owners in need may contact LCDAS at 533-7387 for assistance with pet food donations and/or sick or injured animals in need of veterinary care.

Anyone with information about any neglected or abused pets should also contact LCDAS. The agency encourages the community to help stop animal abuse and neglect in Lee County and ensure that those guilty of this crime are punished to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information about making a donation to the Animal Care Trust Fund to help other neglected and abused pets or to adopt Farrah or other pets from LCDAS, please call 239-533-7387 (LEE-PETS). To view photos of available pets online and for other adoption information visit the website at [www.LeeLostPets](http://www.LeeLostPets).

