

Foster a Pet, Save a Life!

Fort Myers, Florida, 3/4/10—Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) is seeking foster homes for many of its shelter pets. Foster homes for cats and dogs are needed year-round but more are needed as kitten season and warmer weather nears. “The foster program is absolutely essential in saving lives when shelter overcrowding reaches critical levels,” reports Ria Brown, LCDAS Public Information Officer. In 2009 cat intake increased by 72 % and dog intake by 40 % during peak months.

LCDAS provides all necessary supplies including food, medications and veterinary care. In addition to alleviating shelter overcrowding, foster families provide a temporary home and whatever type of care is needed. Fostering can last from one to eight weeks depending on the animal’s needs. Foster families are needed for nursing mother cats with kittens, kittens and puppies not old enough for adoption, and adult dogs that need socialization or recovery time from a treatable illness. “Please open your heart and your home to these animals and assist us in saving lives,” asks Donna Ward, LCDAS Director. “The rewards of fostering are tremendous,” she adds.

Jennifer Galloway of Fort Myers has fostered pets for several years and completely agrees. “I love being part of a process that helps save the lives of abandoned pets. The Animal Services staff is always available to answer any question and I enjoy seeing them as happy as I am when a pet goes to its new home.” Jennifer also enjoys the friendships she has made with some of the families that adopted her foster pets. “I love seeing their pictures and hearing stories about their new lives.”

Anyone interested in providing temporary care and housing for pets may download a foster application online at www.LeeLostPets.com or call 239-533-7387 (LEE-PETS) for more information. To view a gallery of photos of foster pets that have been saved through Animal Services’ Foster Program go to www.LeeLostPets.com and click on “Pet Updates.”