

## Lee County Awarded Custody of Cruelty Case Pets

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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

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### LEE COUNTY AWARDED CUSTODY OF CRUELTY CASE PETS

October 25, 2008, Fort Myers, FL – Lee County Animal Services has been awarded custody of more than 80 animals confiscated September 23, 2008 from property on Jackson Rd., in Fort Myers. A search warrant was obtained by the Lee County Sheriff's Dept. The property was leased by a local rescue organization know as "My Best Friend, Inc." whose owner, Carrie Cagata, faces 120 charges of animal cruelty and abandonment.

Animals confiscated from the property were found to be living in extremely unsanitary conditions, exposed to toxic air quality levels, and suffering from a lack of medical care and food. The medical condition of the animals has been assessed by veterinarians, animal behaviorists, and trainers to evaluate and work with the animals to increase their adoptability. Those currently ready for adoption are now available to the public. Others needing longer-term care for medical issues have been placed into foster care.

All adoptions include:

Spay/neutere surgery

Rabies, DHLPP, and Bordatella vaccines

Worming

Flea/tick treatment

Heartworm test

10-day health guarantee

Lee County license

Microchip ID

Collar

Training DVD

Bag of Science Diet Pet Food

In addition to receiving more than \$500 worth of veterinary and other services, adopters will be saving a life.

A great deal of care already has been expended by Animal Services' staff to restore the pets' health and confidence. The financial cost of their rescue and rehabilitation presently exceeds \$65,000. Animal Services understands that more time and care will be required for many of these pets. Anyone interested in assisting with their care and rehabilitation is encouraged to contact the shelter for information about the Foster Care Program or download a foster application at [www.LeeLostPets.com](http://www.LeeLostPets.com)

Those persons who cannot adopt or foster but would like to help, may also make a donation to the Animal Care Trust Fund, c/o Lee County Animal Services, 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33912. The Fund also assists other homeless and abused pets, provides for low-cost spay/neuter programs, and aids disadvantage pet owners. For more information about pets for adoption or the Animal Care Trust Fund visit [www.LeeLostPets.com](http://www.LeeLostPets.com) or call (239) 533-7387 (LEE-PETS).

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