

## **Lee County Man Pleads Guilty to Animal Cruelty Charges**

February 25, 2010, Fort Myers, FL – The owner of 15 dogs and one cat confiscated for cruelty August 26, 2009 has pled guilty to four felony counts of animal cruelty. Charles Sharp who resided at 13308 Fourth Street in Fort Myers Shores will be sentenced to six months in jail and three year's probation on March 15, 2010. During his probation Sharp will not be allowed to own, care for, or have any contact with animals whatsoever.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office obtained a search warrant in August 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 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 Tracy. Tracy 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.

The Animal Care Trust Fund provides for medical expenses and treatment for animals confiscated for cruelty, abuse, and neglect. Anyone wishing to help other pets in need of medical care may send donations to the Animal Care Trust Fund, c/o Lee County Domestic Animal Services, 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33912. Information about programs and services is available at [www.LeeLostPets.com](http://www.LeeLostPets.com) or at (239) 533-7387 (LEE-PETS).