

## **Lee County Woman Sentenced for Felony Animal Cruelty**

Fort Myers, Florida, 8/18/10—On August 16, 2010 Frances Rochford was sentenced on one felony and two misdemeanor animal cruelty charges. Rochford received one year in jail, one year of house arrest, one year probation, and more than three thousand dollars in fines. In addition she must submit to DNA collection and following her incarceration must undergo random drug testing and mandatory psychiatric and anger management counseling. Once released from jail, she cannot be in the care, custody, or control and any animals or take part in any activities related to animals while on probation.

The charges are related to an incident which took place February 24, 2010. Animal Control Officers arrived at a mobile home on McDaniel Drive in North Fort Myers where they found three canines belonging to Frances Rochford. One deceased three-month old puppy was under the mobile home surrounded by garbage and debris. Necropsy results indicated the puppy was emaciated and suffered from a severe parasite infestation and anemia. Two other canines were chained to metal stakes without shelter or food. The only water available was contaminated by mosquito larvae. One of the dogs had a 10 inch infected laceration around its neck.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services requests anyone with information regarding animal cruelty, abuse or neglect to call (239) 533-7387.