

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER APPRECIATION WEEK

October 23, 2008, Fort Myers, FL – During the first week of November, communities nationwide are encouraged to take a closer look at the valuable role their animal shelters play in enhancing the quality of life in their community as part of National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.

For Lee County Animal Services it means ensuring a safe and compassionate community. In the past 12 months, Animal Services has rescued, housed, fed, and provided care and medical treatment for nearly 14,000 dogs and cats. The agency has responded to over 50,000 calls regarding animal issues and 23,000 calls for service.

During the past year, the agency implemented many new programs including:

- expanded veterinary services and a low-cost spay neuter program for all residents, as well as those receiving public assistance;
- a new foster program to assist animals in need of extra care or time to increase their adoptability;
- an expanded breed rescue program to increase options for hard to adopt pets;
- a Pet Pantry for residents who cannot afford to feed their pets;
- a Behavior Hot Line to assist pet owners in dealing with problem behaviors rather than surrendering their pets to shelters;
- an offsite adoption program to get pets more community exposure;
- a 10 Day Health Guarantee for all pets adopted from the shelter.

The agency is asking residents to consider showing their appreciation for the agency's commitment and dedication to improving animal welfare by making a monetary donation to the Animal Care Trust Fund, 5600 Banner Dr., Ft. Myers, FL 33912. Donors may also assist Animal Services in helping even more pets through in-kinds donations of paper towels, bath towels, bleach, Dawn Detergent, styrofoam bowls cups, and plates, napkins, cat litter, Science Diet Cat and Dog Food (other brands received will be used to stock the agency's Pet Pantry for the disadvantaged community), dog treats, and trash bags. Whether it is during the first week of November or throughout the year, donations are always needed and appreciated.

For more information about National Animal Shelter Appreciation

Week; the Animal Care Trust Fund; Foster, Rescue and Volunteer Programs; or pets for adoption; please contact LCAS at 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or visit the website at www.LeeLostPets.com.

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